



THE INDEPENDENT

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INSIDE TODAY

Top records and films of 1997: the critics' choice
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Unmissable dates for your 1998 arts diary

PAGE 18

PROMOTION Starting next week: Lunch with Conran for £10

TODAY'S NEWS

Stock exchange ends year on a high

A rollercoaster year for the London stock market descended into farce yesterday after the Stock Exchange amended the closing prices of more than one out of ten FTSE-100 stocks after the market lost 32 points in the last few minutes of trading – an attempt to prevent rogue trading. The index, which was also revised upwards, closed at 5,135.5, up almost 25 per cent on the year. Our business staff expect 1998 will be a good year, as the economy slows steadily down. Page 19.

Harsh words in Ulster

David Trimble, Ulster Unionist leader, and Mo Mowlam, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, exchanged "acrimonious" words at Stormont yesterday. Ms Mowlam later agreed to consider Mr Trimble's demand for an independent public inquiry into the Maze prison killing of Billy Wright, a loyalist paramilitary. Page 4.

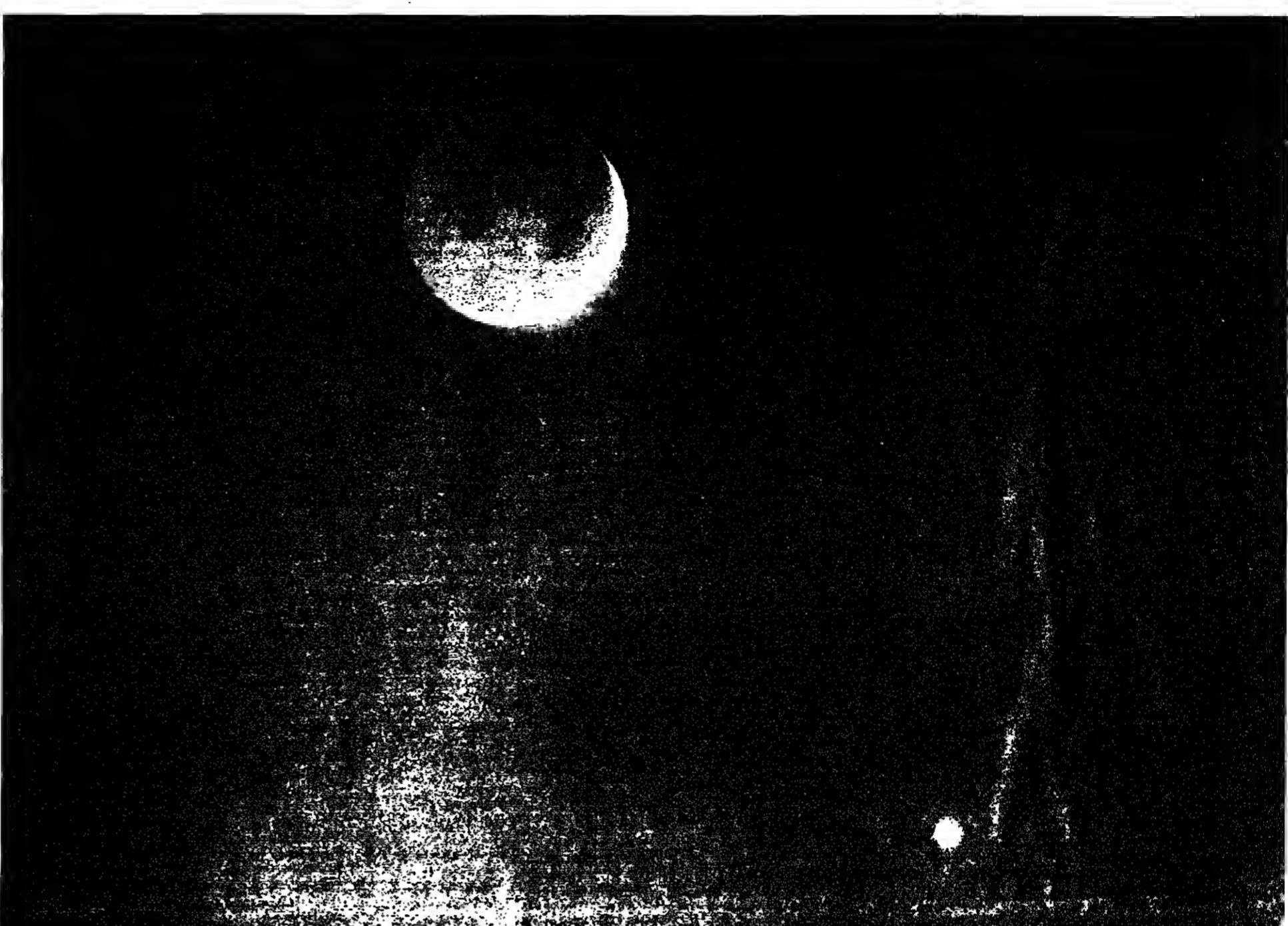
Forget fighting the flab

That New Year resolution to cut the flab may not only be futile, it could also be dangerous. According to the *New England Journal of Medicine*, one of the most respected medical journals, people are merely likely to make themselves miserable, and still fail to reduce their fat. And there is anyway little evidence that they will end up healthier than someone who started out thinner. The answer (surprise, surprise!) is to persuade young people to exercise more so they embark on life with a low body weight. Shove your child off the sofa and him his pizza. Page 3.

Nosmokeville, USA

From this morning, California will begin enforcing the most far-reaching anti-smoking code anywhere attempted in the United States. It amounts to a ban on smoking in virtually any public building, including all watering holes, whether regular bars, nightclubs or casinos. Our correspondent considers the consequences for the kind of glamorous towns Hollywood made famous. Page 3.

A new moon and the Goddess of Love greet the New Year



Heavenly bodies: The new crescent Moon rising into a clear Norfolk sky, partly illuminated by Earthshine. The bright object to the bottom-right is Venus. Photograph: Brian Harris

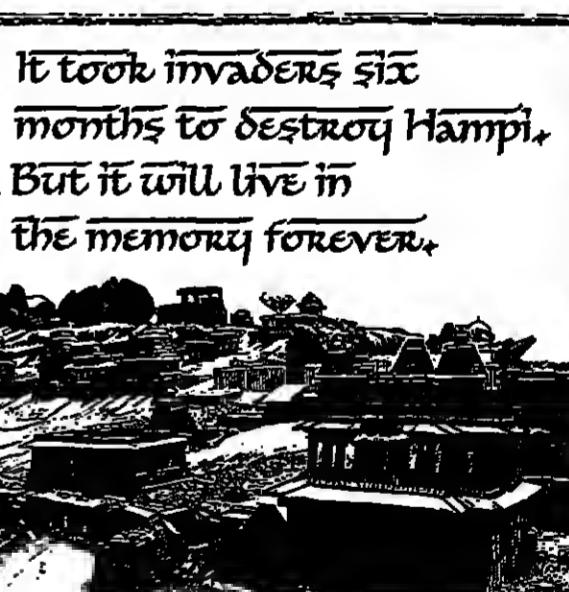
Blair commits party to welfare overhaul

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Web address: <http://www.independent.co.uk>

01



It took invaders six months to destroy Hampi. But it will live in the memory forever.



400 years ago Hampi was considered the greatest of all mediaeval Hindu capitals with markets that overflowed with silks, diamonds, rubies and emeralds. In 1566 it was systematically razed to the ground by invading forces. But though the laughter and clamour of the inhabitants have disappeared, the ruins and remains live on.

Now visitors take the three hour train journey from Bombay to relive what has been aptly termed The Pompeii of India, to visit the Bazaar, its museums and the extraordinary Vitalla Temple.

Hampi is a glorious memory. It will live in your mind forever.

For a free brochure call 0233 211999 or post this coupon to India Tourist Office, 7 Cork Street, London W1X 2LN.

Name _____

Address _____

Ind 1/1/98

India
changes you

Good riddance gonzo snollygoster, and you scuzzy himbos

Can anyone remember the year of the himbo? Has anybody ever encountered a snollygoster?

Before we get too excited at the annual crop of additions to the English language, just released by the *Oxford English Dictionary*, it is salutary to look back over the last Nineties at previous additions.

This year's list might indeed have found some words and phrases to endure. Sin-

gle, unapached women in their 30s risk being called Bridget Joneses for years to come. Cool Britannia – a term first used in The Independent – will have life as long as New Labour does.

Likewise Girl Power and the Spice Girls. But an internet (someone who refuses to use the Internet) seems a mite contrived. And to Gordon Brown (meaning to wear a lounge suit) feels like it emanated from a Treasury spin

doctor rather than a lexicographer.

But those who think such phrases and others like adolescent (35-45 year olds with interests typically associated with youth culture) are both ugly and ephemeral, can take comfort. Not all of the words and phrases selected by Oxford lexicographers last the course. And some are quietly dropped from dictionaries if they fail to be nominated three years in a row.

The 1990s have produced a number of words which delighted the lexicographers, but were rarely spoken by any of the population.

Last year, for example, had bald people called slaphheads, except they virtually never are. 1995 saw a host of new words associated with the National Lottery – instant scratchcards and the like. These have all stayed with us. But whatever happened to us. But whatever happened to us.

These have all stayed with us. But whatever happened to us.

words, descriptions such as "antsy" meaning agitated, deriving from "to have ants in your pants". Fortunately, it quietly disappeared.

Majorism, the political philosophy of the then Prime Minister, was much in vogue in 1993, but doesn't have many takers now. Also apparently in vogue in '93 was himbo (a male himbo), though even himbo feels out of date now. Let alone its male counterpart, Dweeb,

meaning a conventionally boring person, surfaces only occasionally, while gonzo, meaning a crazy person, and scuzz, meaning an unpleasant person, surface not at all.

In 1991 stealing a car for joyriding purposes was "hot", but joyriding has outlasted its slangier competitor. And whatever happened to 1992's snollygoster – "a shrewd, unprincipled person, esp. a politician"?

— David Lister

2/BRIEFING

COLUMN ONE

Church in the doghouse over canine baptism

It is often said that the British have an unhealthy habit of anthropomorphising their pets but few have gone so far as trying to defy one of the main tenets of Christian belief and secure for their pet a place in heaven.

Dog owner Anne Moore came to the startling conclusion that her Rottweiler Bertie has an immortal soul that needs protecting and tried to have him baptised – complete with Godparents.

The dog – full name Bertie Bear Rocksam Moore – had been fitted out with a blue satin bib for the event at Lincoln's All Saints Church which was planned for 16 January.

Ms Moore had the Rev Anthony Kerswill's consent for the service because it had been described to him as a service of thanksgiving.

After local newspapers described the event as a baptism he cancelled the service complaining about "publicity and obvious misrepresentation".

The clergyman has told the *Church Times*: "We should not be seen to be baptising animals. My bishop would go hairless if he thought I was baptising animals."

Miss Moore, 23, of Lincoln said: "He has made me feel like I have done something wrong, like I am a criminal. He has got no sense of humour whatsoever. She added: "The dog means so much to me and I wanted him to have 'God parents'. He usually goes everywhere with me, he is my shadow. I hate leaving him and when I go out he has a babysitter who stays with him – they are like babies aren't they."

The affair is not yet over and the Anglican church's reputation for liberal interpretation of the gospels may yet be intact: "I have spoken to one vicar and he told me to ring back in the new year. He said he could probably do it but to keep quiet about it."

— Paul McCann

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NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997.

PEOPLE



Graham Sharpe would take a bet on ET's arrival in Bristol, but not the Louise Woodward trial

The man who'll call the odds on ET's next visit

Graham Sharpe, a bookmaker with William Hill, is the man who has to distinguish between the simply unconventional and the downright unacceptable.

During the last 12 months he has set the odds on bets ranging from the probability of aliens landing in Bristol to one of the Spice Girls becoming pregnant.

"I am the person who handles any bet that comes under the heading of unconventional. No matter which shop someone walks into anywhere in Britain, if they can't quote the odds, the customer will be referred to me."

But there are some wagers that even Mr Sharpe will not accept. When Geoff Sartor, from Shanklin, Isle of Wight, asked for odds on his wife Barbara dying on 25 March 2007, he felt obliged to turn him down. "We try to use the same guidelines as advertising – a bet should be legal, decent, honest and truthful," he said.

"Apparently they had both agreed to him placing the bet. He said his wife would know there were no sinister overtones if it happened but I do not know if the police would see it that way."

"We do not mind taking bets on the lives of fictional soap characters but we do not like to bet on a person's demise."

For the same reasons he would not accept bets on the deaths of the Pope or the Queen Mother.

"There is always a danger that if you are silly enough to accept such a bet, the people will go out and try to make it a self-fulfilling prophecy."

He said that some people became wrapped up in their subjects that they wanted to bet on earthquakes wiping out San Francisco or Tokyo without stopping to think of the loss of life.

Bets on the outcome of the Louise Woodward trial – like the OJ Simpson case the year before – were also turned down, as were several other strange requests during the year.

There were the arts students Jamie Lewis and Phil Duckworth, from Coventry, who wanted to bet they could sell a work of art for £1m. Mr Sharpe regretfully declined.

He also felt bound to refuse a London man who wanted to place a £50 wager on his wife being abducted by aliens and replaced by an android.

"I could not take it – it might be a really good android and if I could not tell the difference, we would not have to pay up."

— Kate Watson-Smyth

UPDATE

FOOD

Chicken tops the menu

Chicken has been hailed as the number one meat for 1997, with the average Briton devouring the equivalent of 10 whole birds during the year, chicken producers said yesterday.

The fowl accounts for about 40 per cent of raw meat sales, knocking beef into second place at 24 per cent followed by pork at 18 per cent and lamb at 10 per cent.

The explosion in ready meals has helped swell the popularity of poultry with chicken curry, kiev and nuggets notching up record sales of £581m in 1997.

The effects of the BSE crisis has also helped chicken hold on to the number one top spot for the ninth year in a row.

Overall chicken sales have risen by 1.6 per cent to just over one million tonnes – nearly 20 kg per person.

John Ramuz, chairman of the British Chicken Information Service, said: "Chicken's enduring popularity is undoubtedly that it offers an infinite variety of recipes and meal occasions as well as being nutritious, low in fat and affordable."

Mr Ramuz said retailers and chicken producers had worked hard to match demand for innovative meals.

RABIES

Support for pet quarantine

The quarantine laws aimed at keeping rabies out of the country still receive a lot of support, despite growing calls for them to be dropped, a new survey has revealed.

Some 52 per cent of those polled insisted the six-month isolation of animals being brought in from abroad should remain as a protection against the threat of rabies. Some 47 per cent of pet owners backed full quarantine, said the *Bella* magazine survey, which polled 1,000 people. But 48 per cent of all those asked agreed there was scope for reforming the laws.

Campaign group Passports for Pets said vaccination, blood-testing and tagging would be an effective counter against the spread of rabies. A spokeswoman said: "Records show that in the UK between 1972 and 1996, 3,000 cats and dogs died while in quarantine – not one of them had rabies."

TOURIST RATES

Australia (dollars)	2.43	Italy (lira)	2,830
Austria (schillings)	20.13	Japan (yen)	211.79
Belgium (francs)	59.19	Malta (lira)	0.62
Canada (\$)	2.30	Netherlands (guilders)	3.22
Cyprus (pounds)	0.83	Norway (kroner)	11.85
Denmark (kroner)	10.99	Portugal (escudos)	290.49
France (francs)	9.58	Spain (pesetas)	242.00
Germany (marks)	2.87	Sweden (kroner)	12.74
Greece (drachma)	456.01	Switzerland (francs)	2.33
Hong Kong (\$)	12.39	Turkey (lira)	328,403
Ireland (pounds)	1.11	USA (\$)	1.61

Source: Thomas Cook

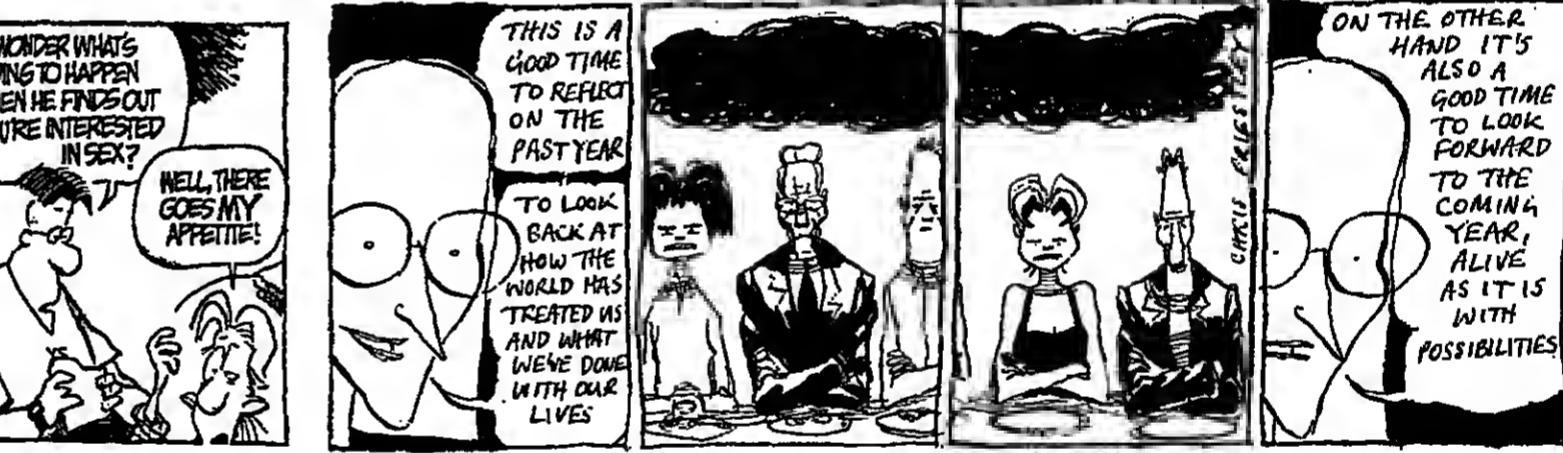
Rates for indication purposes only

ZITS



by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

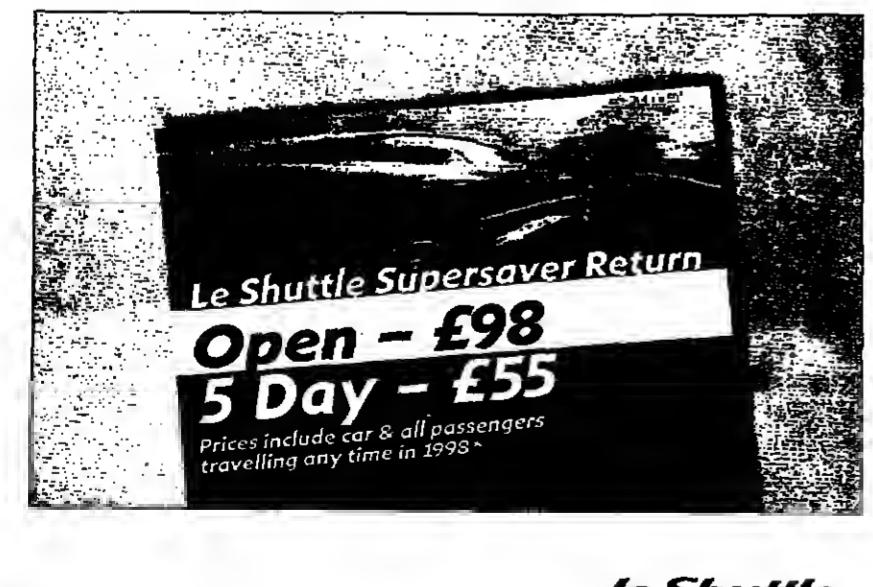
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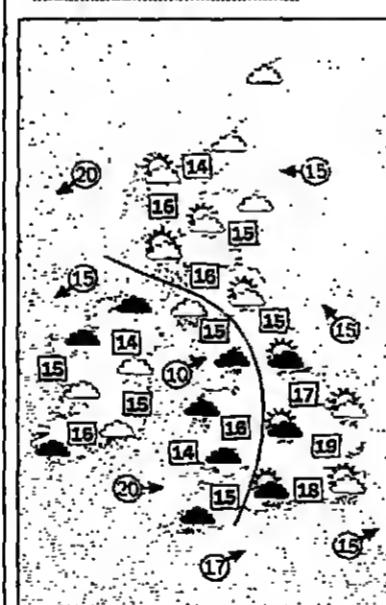
by Chris Priestley

What could possibly be better than going to France '98?

Going to France for £98.



FORECAST



Today		Tomorrow		Yesterday's Readings		Air Quality		High Tides	
London	21.20	14	London	21.20	4.50	NO ₂	O ₃	AM HT	PM HT
Bristol	21.30	14	Bristol	21.30	5.00	Moderate	Good	London	0.22
Birmingham	21.33	4.59	Birmingham	21.33	4.52	Good	Good	New York	88
Manchester	21.40	4.45	Manchester	21.40	4.47	Good	Good	Geneva	70
Newcastle	21.43	4.34	Newcastle	21.47	4.35	Good	Good	Nice	88
Glasgow	22.04	4.38	Glasgow	22.04	4.39	Scotland	Good	Paris	61
Belfast	22.02	4.54	Belfast	22.07	4.55	N Ireland	Good	Brussels	15

Lighting-up times

Today	Tomorrow	Yesterday	NO ₂	O ₃
London	21.20	14	London	21.20
Bristol	21.30	14	Bristol	21.30
Birmingham	21.33	4.59	Birmingham	21.33
Manchester	21.40	4.45	Manchester	21.40
Newcastle	21.43	4.34	Newcastle	21.47
Glasgow	22.04	4.38	Glasgow	22.04
Belfast	22.02	4.54	Belfast	22.07

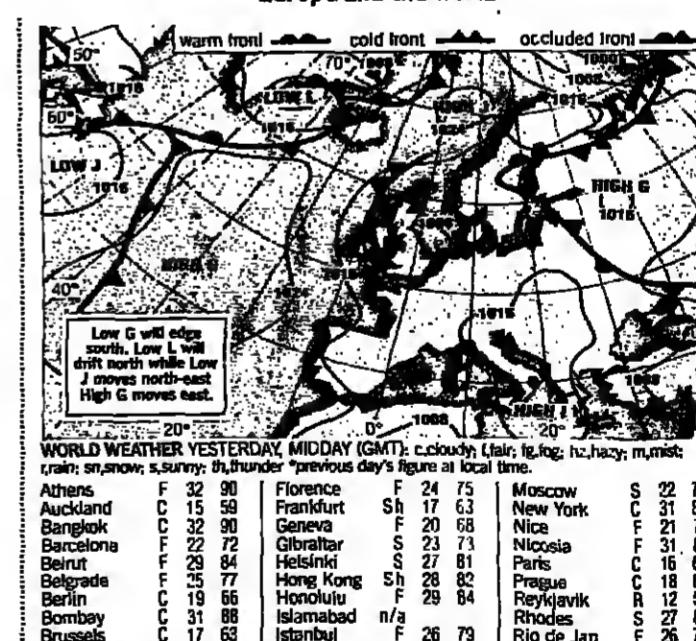
The British Isles

Outlook:

Scotland will start cloudy and damp with some patchy rain. During the day it should slowly brighten up with the best of the sun along the north-west coast, but occasional showers are also likely, and persistent rain will never be far away from the south-west. Northern Ireland, Wales and western England will be cloudy and grey with spells of rain. Eastern and south-eastern England should start dry with a little sun, but a few scattered heavy showers will develop.

Tomorrow, England and Wales should see a little sunshine, but it will be another cloudy day with scattered heavy showers. Northern Ireland and Scotland will also have a lot of cloud and some showers, but the far north may stay dry.

On Friday the showers will mainly cover England and Wales with the best of the dry weather in Scotland and Northern Ireland. The weekend should be drier, brighter and warmer in most places, but patchy rain will spread slowly south through Scotland later.



Sun and Moon	
Sun rises	4.48
Sun sets	21.20
Moon rises	1.18
Moon sets	18.57
New moon	July 4

London, All Leytonstone Lane closures at A12 roundabout until August 1998.
London, A306 Hammermill Bridge closed until January 1998.
Leicester, A6 Loddington Contrabow near M12.
Surrey, M25 B10 Lane closures both ways until further notice.
Bristol, M5 (B10) Contrabow on Avonmouth Bridge until August 1998.
Swansea, A406 Fabian Way Lane closures both ways until July 1998.
Safeguard, A50 Stoke on Trent, Major works at Mar and March 1998.
Leicester, A6 Loddington Contrabow near M12.<br

'Sun' backs down over naming minister's son

Legal confusion over identifying the cabinet minister's son allegedly caught dealing in drugs intensified after an injunction banning publication of his name. As police reject claims of political pressure, Michael Streeter, Legal Affairs Correspondent, looks at the continuing row.

The Sun newspaper said yesterday that it would not appeal against an injunction won by the Attorney-General preventing it from naming the 17-year-old son of a cabinet minister accused of dealing in drugs.

But questions were raised about the "appearance" of double standards of seeking legal action when - albeit under a previous administration - such action had not been taken in previous cases.

When a 16-year-old roads protester known as "Animal" was arrested and charged with obstruction in January last year she was widely named in the media. No injunction was sought by law officers to prevent her being named, say critics. At the time, the Home Office was reported to be considering a change in the law, but no action was taken.

The White Paper on Youth Justice, published by the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, last year, called for "more openness" in youth court proceedings. It stated: "Justice is best served in an open court where the criminal process can be scrutinised and the offender cannot hide behind a cloak of anonymity."

On Tuesday evening, Mr Justice Moses granted the Attorney-General, John Morris QC, an injunction banning the Sun from publishing the name of the minister's son. He ruled that while the Children and Young Persons Act 1993 protects a juvenile's identity in court proceedings

did not apply, under the law of contempt publication could prejudice a trial, add to the burden of any sentence and wrongly stop the trial judge banning publication of identity during the case.

Media lawyer Dan Te solicitors Lovell White Durrant, said the ruling "strained" the law of contempt as previously understood. Walter Greenwood, editor of *Essential Law for Journalists*, praised the integrity of the Attorney-General, but said the seeking of an injunction "gave the appearance of double standards".

The Sun said yesterday it had been considering whether to challenge the legal ban but had decided against it. Some observers saw the paper's failed attempt to publish the name as a ploy to draw attention from the rival *Mirror*, which ran the story before Christmas.

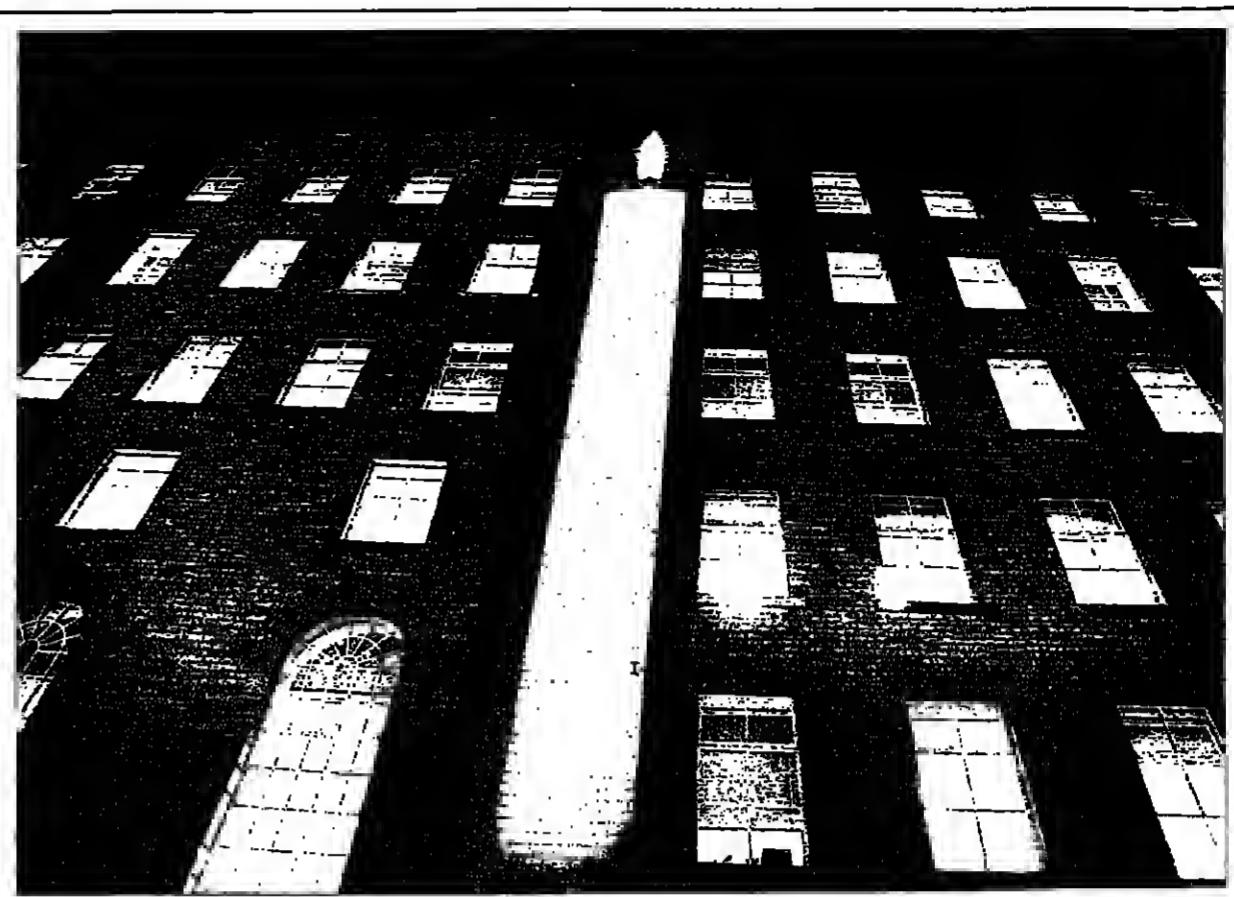
Paul Cavardino, principal officer of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, defended the in-

junction, adding: "It is important to remember that the anonymity rule exists to protect juvenile defendants, not to protect their parents from embarrassment."

Sources close to the minister say he would be willing to talk about the matter if he were not constrained by the law. He is bound by the injunction.

The Tory spokesman on home affairs, Sir Brian Mawhinney, said the case had become a "slow torture process" for the cabinet minister's family.

Meanwhile, Acting Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Brian Hayes has rejected claims of political pressure over the case, including the arrest of *Mirror* reporter Dawn Alford who broke the story. Ms Alford's arrest was part of normal police practice and had not been ordered by the Crown Prosecution Service, although they had been consulted as is usual at "all stages of complex or high profile cases", he said. Sir Brian said police sent the case file to the CPS yesterday.



A 70ft image of a candle is projected on to the side of the Dean Clough arts centre in Halifax as part of Photo 98 - a series of images designed to transform public places. The candle, by artist Paul Bradley, will get smaller during the year. As part of Photo 98, The Independent will be exclusively showing a series of photographs of the century. We will publish 98 pictures - one for every year of the century - in The Eye, starting on Monday

Photograph: Asadour Guzelian

Trimble warns of violence as tension mounts in Ulster

David Trimble had an angry meeting with Mo Mowlam yesterday as tensions mounted in Ulster. Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent, says the Ulster Unionist leader warned her that the province faced more violence.

Ministers have instigated a thorough internal investigation into the security lapse at the Maze which led to INLA gunmen shooting Wright dead in a prison van inside the prison.

There are fears that a public inquiry would be turned into a trial of the Government's policy for peace, and would be used to challenge the concessions which the Unionists believe have gone too far in appeasing the IRA in return for the continued ceasefire.

The meeting was tense after one of Mr Trimble's MPs had called for Ms Mowlam's resignation. Mr Trimble said last night that she was reconsidering her decision to have the pre-Christmas break-out from the Maze and the Wright killing investigated by the English prison service.

Underlining the Unionist distrust for Ms Mowlam, Mr Trimble said he hoped "this was not just some flip phrase thrown

off to satisfy the meeting and that it would be followed up quickly so we have a proper independent inquiry with its report published".

The Ulster Unionist leader described the discussions as "very disappointing". He said: "We did not get any proper answers to the questions we raised."

He told Ms Mowlam that the complete absence of confidence in her in the Unionist community stemmed "from the correct perception that the Secretary of State has been concerned merely to appease and assuage the feelings of republicans".

After the acrimonious meeting at Stormont the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland agreed to consider the Unionists' demands for a public inquiry into the killing of Billy Wright, the loyalist leader, in the Maze prison.

"We are in a very delicate situation, and a very dangerous situation," Mr Trimble said. "I'm very glad, of course, that [Tuesday] night went off peacefully. I don't have a similar confidence as regard the future."

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distrust for Ms Mowlam, Mr Trimble said he hoped "this was not just some flip phrase thrown

Cash boost to bring dentists into NHS

The Government will announce today an extra £11m to get more dentists to treat patients on the NHS.

The money will boost a scheme called "Investing in Dentistry" which was launched in September in an attempt to reverse the exodus of dentists from the NHS under the Tories.

Many dentists reluctantly dropped NHS work and went private, in protest at the failure to raise their fees from the NHS work, and a massive increase in the amount of paperwork they had to do.

The health minister, Alan Milburn, has privately told colleagues he wants to make the revival of NHS dentistry one of his priorities in the coming year, which marks the 50th anniversary of the tax-based health service, free and in conception based on need, not the ability to pay.

The extra cash will expand existing practices or set up entirely new ones, to increase the numbers of NHS-registered patients. It could include training and back-to-work packages for dentists who have taken career breaks, or start-up programmes for trainees to set up in general practice.

He is also announcing today that £415,000 will be spent to lay the ground for 25 personal dental services pilot schemes as part of the drive to improve primary care.

The pilot schemes, which will begin in October 1998, include a practice in Cambridgeshire which will focus more on preventative work; a specialist orthodontic referral service in Bedfordshire; and the provision of more general anaesthetic sessions for dentists to work in hospitals on the NHS in Northumberland.

Other schemes will include block contracts for extractions in Avon; attempts to reduce inequalities in disease and treatment in Lambeth, south London; a one-stop centre in Bromley, south-east London; and the use of a salaried dentist service in the Scilly Isles to create a safety net in an area where patients have severe problems in getting access to NHS dentistry.

— Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

Headless corpse was teenage boy

A dismembered, headless body found dumped in a bin at the back of a hotel in Blackpool was that of a teenage boy, police said yesterday.

Police have identified him as 17-year-old Christopher Hartley, who had been working at the resort's Pleasure Beach.

The naked body, which had been cut in two with a sharp instrument, was discovered on Tuesday.

The man leading the investigation, Detective Superintendent Paul Buschini, said a post-mortem had not been able to establish how the teenager died.

Police were yesterday conducting house-to-house inquiries of nearby bedsits and hotels to try to find clues as to where the youngster might have met his death. They were also continuing to search for the missing head. It is believed fingerprints were used to identify the boy.

Christopher had gone to Blackpool from his home in Burnley, Lancashire, seeking work.

Cancer fight over

A cancer victim lost her fight for life yesterday after battling to spend one last Christmas with her baby daughter.

Helen Bourton, 27, who was terminally ill with breast cancer, found herself embroiled in controversy after Avon Health Authority refused to fund the £10,000 treatment she said she needed to help her stay alive until Christmas.

Friends and family stepped in to pay for a course of the drug Docetaxel and she was able to cuddle her 19-month-old daughter Ellie-Mae from her bed at Bristol Infirmary on Christmas Day.

Walker falls 600ft

A walker escaped death yesterday after falling more than 600ft from a mountain. The accident happened on Blencathra near Keswick in the Lake District when the unnamed man and his group of fellwalkers reached a ridge called Sharp Edge close to the summit.

A mountain rescue team were called out after the alarm was raised using a mobile telephone and an RAF helicopter from Kinloss airfield to the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle. He had suffered spinal, leg and head injuries.

From the skids of the police helicopter, PC Bracegirdle grips the woman's wrist to tow her through the waves of the Bristol Channel to the safety of the shore.

Photograph:
Alan Jenkins

Police team saves woman from waves

A woman who was spotted walking into the sea fully clothed and seemingly in a distressed state was scooped from the water in a daring rescue. Ian Burrell describes how she was flown to safety.

For more than 100 yards, the police helicopter "hover-taxied" a few feet above the waves of the Bristol Channel as Constable Phil Bracegirdle clung to the woman by the wrist, her head barely out of the water.

Yards before the helicopter reached the shore, he released her into the shallow water, before diving in with a colleague, dragging her to the beach and bringing her back to consciousness. The woman, in her late thirties, was later said to be "satisfactory" in a Cardiff hospital.

PC Bracegirdle, 42, an observer on the South Wales and Gwent police helicopter, said: "All I could do was to sit out, wrap my legs around the skids and hang on to her. There were no boats around to pick her up so we just had to go for it. It was an incredible piece of flying by Angus. He was rock steady, just high enough to keep the woman's head out of the water."

The helicopter crew were scrambled from their base at Cardiff after a group of fishermen near Sully Beach reported seeing a fully clothed woman



Search begins for water on Moon

The science-fiction dream of colonies on the Moon has never looked practicable: it's too cold and there's no air. But now, scientists have new hope that a space mission will find a reason to set up a permanent site there. Charles Arthur, Science Editor, explains why.

Almost 20 years after humans first walked on the Moon, the US space agency is sending a spacecraft back - out to land on the Moon but to look for water.

The lunar Prospector spacecraft, due to lift off on Tuesday from Cape Canaveral in Florida, will undertake an 18-month mission which if successful could lead to a land rush comparable with the Klondike's search for gold. Having water available would mean that a Moon base would become feasible, since breathable oxygen could easily be extracted from the water by electrolysis, powered by solar energy.

That in turn could revitalise the space race, at a time when crewed missions beyond Earth have begun to seem too expensive and pointless because of the difficulty of surviving in the harsh emptiness of space. With the Moon as a staging post, more ambitious missions to the planets, and especially Mars, could be contemplated.

One of the instruments on

board the Prospector spacecraft has been specially designed to detect the presence of hydrogen on the Moon's surface. If there is water ice frozen deep in the craters at the Moon's poles, as scientists suspect there might be, it will be detected.

The impetus for the search came in 1994, when a US military satellite picked up unusual radar reflections from deep within craters at the lunar south pole that looked very like those from water ice. One aim of the £40m mission is to discover whether these images were real or just mirages.

"If we can find sufficient water, it's going to be a land rush like the Oklahoma Sooners," said Bill Feldman, project leader for the Los Alamos Laboratory in the US, which provided the hydrogen-seeking instrument.

"Water is the key resource that will support life as well as travel from the Moon to the planets. Besides sustaining life for Moon colonies, hydrogen from the ice can be extracted for rocket fuel," Mr Feldman said. "I am sure that there are people who would colonise the Moon once sufficient water is available," he continued. "The Moon is one of the best environments you could possibly have for any number of scientific and commercial enterprises."

Other instruments will provide clues as to how and when the Moon formed and map the Moon's irregular magnetic field.



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The Little Dog

By Selina Hill

If all the glassy skyscrapers of Chicago were crushed together in a solid lump and chilled for a million years and given legs and set to walk alone along our streets, it would not be as icy cold as you whose heart is frozen like a little dog that's lost its way far out on the snow, and people searched - it was a much-loved dog - but long ago gave up and turned for home.

This week's poems come from the five volumes shortlisted for the 1997 Whitbread Poetry Award. The winner will be announced next Tuesday, 6 January, along with the other Whitbread winners for biography, fiction and first novels. "The Little Dog" is taken from Selina Hill's *Violet* (Bloodaxe, £6.95).

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6/SECRET PAPERS

Blacks seen as threat to national security in the Sixties

Black people are potential spies. They have to be treated as security risks unless they can show evidence of their "assimilation" into Britain and "their trustworthiness in handling its affairs".

That was the judgement, 30 years ago, of the top civil service coordinator of the nation's intelligence services, except he used the word "coloured". According to a report he compiled for the Ministerial Committee on Security in September 1967

— now released under the 30-year rule and open at the Public Record Office — coloured people may become "disaffected through real or imagined acts of racial discrimination; consequently they may be vulnerable to inducements offered by hostile intelligence services or to the influence of subversive organisations".

Sir Laurence Helsby, whose day job was permanent secretary to the Treasury, headed the

Official Committee on Security. He was reporting to ministers on the operations of the vetting system and told them few blacks were likely to pass "positive vetting" — the procedure in which a full background check is compiled by the police and Security Service (M15).

Immigrants had to have lived in the UK for at least 10 years before they could be positively vetted; even then they would not be considered for the diplomatic

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racist. The problem, he explained, lay in checking the backgrounds of coloured immigrants in their countries of origin. He was aware, too, that there was a growing problem.

Immigration into the United Kingdom had been controlled since the early Sixties but, this being the era of full employment, Whitehall was recruiting large numbers of black people into manual and junior clerical jobs. In London, nearly

half the intake to clerks' positions in some departments comprised black people. But they could not be trusted with classified documents. And that posed management problems.

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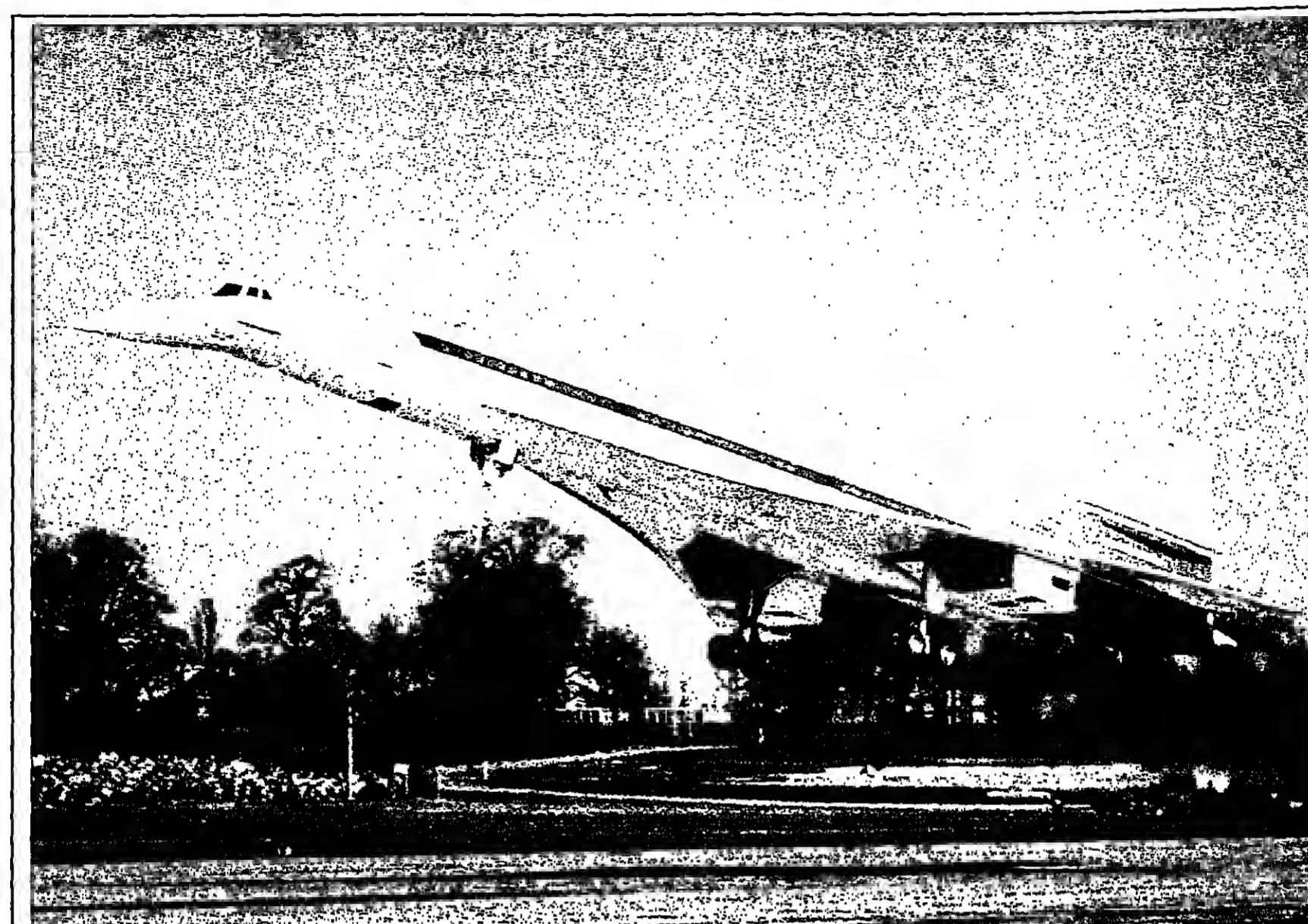
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BY DAVID WALKER
AND JOHN CROSSLAND



The Cabinet worried about the fate of York and Beverley ministers if they approved a programme of test sonic booms over Hull and the Humber estuary.

The Government was concerned to sell Concorde — the Anglo-French supersonic jet — and wanted to test public reactions to the booms.

"The British public were known to be particularly sensitive about noise, so if tests did not produce a strong hostile reaction we should be in a position to persuade other governments that the nuisance of sonic booms was not intolerable." No advance warning of the tests was to be given.



Castro's gift turned down by Wilson

The Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, refused to accept a gift of a 10h box of cigars from Cuban Communist leader, Fidel Castro, on the grounds it might be "misinterpreted" as payback for a recent bus contract from Cuba won by a British concern.

Whitehall was insisting that if Wilson smoked the cigars himself he would have to foot a bill for £27 10 shillings and 5 pence (£27.52) for carriage and customs duty. Instead, the cigars went to Government Hospitality to be offered to official guests.

Student loans

The replacement of student grants by loans — bitterly opposed by Labour when introduced by the Thatcher government — was proposed in 1967 by Labour Education Secretary Tony Crosland. Crosland wanted to fend off Treasury demands for cuts in school budgets so proposed freezing student grants and gradually introducing loans to cover maintenance costs.

Red Guards

Harold Wilson considered placing the Chinese legation in Portland Place, central London, under armed guard after diplomats dressed like Red Guards began chanting pro-Mao, anti-British slogans from the legation steps and police officers were assaulted.

In the event, the government asked the Chinese to close the legation while stopping short of breaking off diplomatic relations with the Chinese.

Pay-TV

The Duke of Edinburgh lobbied Harold Wilson on behalf of commercial television interests. In a letter to the Prime Minister the Queen's husband spoke of "interesting" proposals for pay-TV, then being tested experimentally. Wilson, however, was cool: pay-TV would "tend inevitably to deprive the present services of some of their more popular items".

Alliances and arms deals show flexible morality

According to Labour Foreign Secretary George Brown in 1967, it was not "morally acceptable" to condemn the Americans over their involvement in Vietnam. It was, however, morally acceptable to use the Royal Air Force secretly to deliver ammunition to the Israelis on the eve of the Six Day War and to make careful calibrations of the kind of weaponry it was acceptable to supply to the Nigerian military junta for use in the bloody suppression of a revolt without full-scale rationing.

The archive contains a personal letter from Harold Wilson to Levi Eshkol, the Israeli Prime Minister. "I am glad we were able to help you, now I am sure you will understand our concern that the utmost secrecy should be maintained. However good the explanation the story could be used with devastating effect in propaganda against both of us."

The papers demonstrate the then Prime Minister Harold Wilson's pro-Israeli sympathies. Arms deliveries took place from British airfields — RAF Waddington was used by Israeli aircraft to fly out ammunition and shipments left ports at night in sealed cargo vessels.

At the same time, the Cabinet was draw-

ing up contingency plans for petrol rationing in the event of an oil embargo by the Arab states. Ministers even suggested that the oil companies, such as ICL, might try to obtain petrol from the Soviet Union.

In the event the petrol supply, particularly from Iraq, was cut but the crisis passed without full-scale rationing.

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This was a world where — according to George Brown, the Foreign Secretary — the Communists were "mobilising a skilful worldwide propaganda campaign" on Vietnam. To condemn the US, he said in a cabinet memo, is to condemn the major power in the conflict which has publicly proclaimed a policy aimed at securing for the South Vietnamese the right to order their own affairs.

Harold Wilson had proposed a dramatic peace mission with Soviet leader, Alexei Kosygin, to end the war. The suggestion, made at an embassy reception in London in February 1967, seemed to have been treated with no more than mild amusement by the Russian leader. Picking up a fork, Kosygin told Wilson: "If one took a piece of metal and attempted to make a fork without knowhow to do so one would spoil the metal without producing a fork".

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Bitter wrangle over that pound in your pocket

Some of the bitterest wrangling during 1967, within the Cabinet but more especially between the Government and its officials, concerned the need to devalue the pound.

This step was eventually taken on 18 November, with great reluctance by Harold Wilson, when the pound's fixed exchange rate against the dollar was reduced from \$2.80 to \$2.40. The Prime Minister famously, and misleadingly, told the nation that "the pound in your pocket" was not worth any less.

The Government had gone to great

lengths to try and avoid devaluation, one memorandum from Wilson to James Callaghan, then chancellor, warning of "dire" consequences. Apart from the admission of economic failure, the Prime Minister was worried that other countries would respond with competitive devaluations of their own.

However, from Britain's application in May 1967 to join the Common Market, a lower value for the pound was widely expected. Capital drained out of the country, depleting the foreign currency reserves so

much that by November the Government had had to borrow nearly \$5bn. A disastrous set of figures for the balance of trade in October made the decision to devalue inevitable.

On 17 November, the day before the announcement, Wilson wrote to Lyndon Johnson, the US President, informing him of it. He expressed relief, writing: "The removal of a certain poison from the system purges the whole system itself." The move was accompanied by measures to squeeze demand at home in a bid to reduce the trade deficit.

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Kenyan opposition warns of violence if Moi is re-elected

The crisis over Kenya's botched elections deepened yesterday after the two leading presidential candidates said that a victory for President Daniel arap Moi would lead to violence. Ed O'Loughlin reports from Nairobi

The National Development Party candidate, Raila Odinga, said that he believed state security agents were manipulating the electoral commission to ensure another victory for the President's Kenyan African National Union (Kanu), in power since 1963. Speaking after a meeting with Mr Moi's main rival, Mwai Kibaki of the Demo-

cratic Party, Mr Odinga said the opposition would not accept a victory for Mr Moi because the process was clearly fraudulent. "It is clear that this (rigging) will lead to violence, to disaster," he said. "The people will not accept it and we shall not accept it."

Polling in the parallel presidential, parliamentary and civic elections began on Monday but had to be extended for an extra day after many voting stations failed to open on time and some failed to open at all. Many constituencies received the wrong ballot papers and there were widespread allegations of ballot stuffing, vote-buying and intimidation.

Yesterday, the British government added its voice to the chorus of concern. The junior

minister at the foreign office, Tony Lloyd, said that reports of irregularities "raise question marks over the efficiency and credibility of the elections" in the former British territory.

Candidates opposed to Mr Moi, 73, have alleged that the irregularities and the extension of voting were part of a plan to facilitate vote rigging by Kanu. On Tuesday, Mr Moi responded by accusing the electoral commission of conspiring against him. Kanu, still the favourite to win, has stopped short of calling for the elections to be abandoned.

Yesterday, the chairman of the electoral commission, Samuel Kivuitu, told a press conference that while the commission had "lapsed in the logistics", its errors were not deliberate and it still considered the process to

be free and fair. Asked if he would resign, he said with a hint of sarcasm: "Have you ever heard of anyone resigning in Kenya because of such things?"

Despite the confusion and queues at polling stations, observers believe the turnout was between 65 and 80 per cent. Analysts say this could favour the opposition in the parliamentary elections, with many blaming Mr Moi for Kenya's declining economic prospects and rampant corruption and misrule.

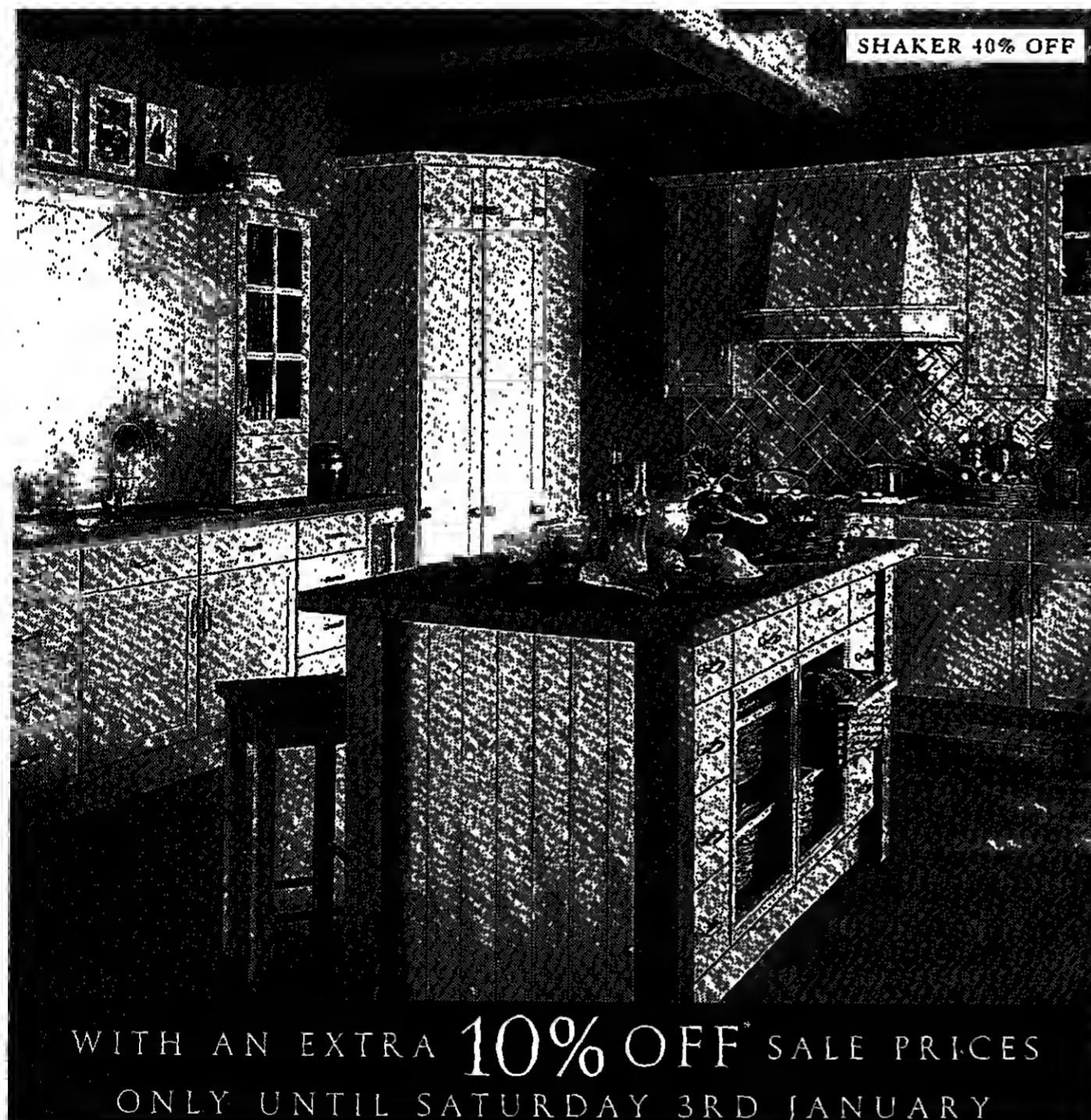
With the opposition vote split between 14 different candidates Mr Moi is certain to come first in the presidential poll but he could face a run-off against the second placed candidate if he fails to win 25 per cent of the vote in any five of Kenya's eight provinces.



Paper chase: Officials argue over a spoiled ballot in a Nairobi constituency

Photograph: Corinne Dufka/Reuters

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الدبلوماسي

Monks pray for chicken souls as flu vaccine sought

Buddhist monks in Hong Kong were in their temples yesterday praying to pacify the souls of the chickens and other poultry which have been slaughtered in an attempt to stop the spread of the mysterious bird flu.

While they were praying, legislators were accusing the government of having lost control over the H5N1 virus outbreak. At a special meeting they criticised government officials for providing inadequate and contradictory information and questioned whether the slaughter of some 1.3 million birds would be sufficient to stop the virus taking hold and causing more deaths.

The Chief Executive, Tung Chee-hwa, who has been notable for his silence over the bird flu crisis, finally broke it yesterday during a visit to a poultry market where he stressed that the government was "very coo-

cerned". Angry poultry industry workers chanted slogans during his visit, demanding higher levels of compensation for the loss of business.

Meanwhile Paul Shaw, the deputy director of health, announced that contingency plans had been to close crowded places to minimise the spread of the virus should the outbreak escalate into an epidemic.

He told legislators that the government was working on a vaccine that would fight the virus should a "disaster scenario" occur. It would take some six months to prepare a vaccine, however.

Now that the cull of live poultry has been completed the government is trying to ensure that fresh supplies of live birds from the Chinese mainland do not reintroduce the virus. It therefore seems likely that a ban on imports will last

for some weeks. This means there will be no fresh chicken supply for the Chinese New Year festivities. Many traditional dishes involve chicken meat.

The Chinese authorities say that a "special expert investigation" by the Ministry of Agriculture since 17 December found no positive tests from 1,078 chicken blood samples in Guangdong province, which supplies about 70 per cent of Hong Kong's consumption.

Although there have been no reports of human cases of bird flu on the Chinese mainland, this may be because there is less likelihood of it being successfully identified because the standard of medical care is so much lower than Hong Kong, and diagnostic equipment is not readily available in rural areas.

— Stephen Vines, Hong Kong
Teresa Poole, Peking

Kaunda under house arrest

Zambia's former president, Kenneth Kaunda, was released from prison yesterday evening and flown to the capital Lusaka where he was immediately put under house arrest, witnesses said. Dozens of heavily armed police surrounded the veteran African statesman's house in a Lusaka suburb while he was led inside.

President Frederick Chiluba has barred Mr Kaunda from talking to the press and said people would be arrested if caught within 100 metres of his house.

— Reuters, Lusaka

Diana Fiat driver seen

Witnesses driving near the crash that killed Diana, Princess of Wales saw a white Fiat Uno weaving out of the Pont de l'Alma tunnel in Paris and described its driver. A police report said a couple driving parallel to the tunnel's exit saw the Fiat "zigzagging" as it drove out seconds after the crash on 31 August. The driver was said to be a white male aged about 40. He also had a large dog in the car.

— AP, Paris

Clinton charity wound up

A charitable fund set up three years ago to help defray legal fees incurred by President Bill Clinton and his wife is being wound up for lack of support, leaving the Clintons with more than \$3m (£1.8m) to pay. The fund raised \$1.3m, but contributions fell off sharply this year. According to the fund's director, Michael Cardozo, donors appeared to be scared of associating themselves with Democratic Party fund-raising scandals. The legal fund disbursed more than \$1m in fees, mostly in connection with the Whitewater land deal in Arkansas.

— Mary Dejevsky, Washington

Ramadan massacre

Twenty-one Algerian civilians were slaughtered overnight in the first 24 hours of Ramadan — the Muslim holy month feared for its tradition of increased civilian bloodletting in Algeria's savage civil strife. Algerian state radio yesterday said the 21 died in a village on Tuesday night in Algeria's western province of Relizane.

— Reuters, Paris

Peking gloats over SA tie

China poached Taiwan's last major diplomatic ally on Tuesday, signing an accord with South Africa to open full diplomatic relations from today. The Chinese Foreign Minister, Qian Qichen, who signed the agreement with his counterpart, Alfred Nzo in Pretoria, told Taiwan to give up a doomed diplomatic rivalry with Peking.

— Reuters, Pretoria

Swiss 'right to feel rejected'

Flavio Cotti, who takes over Switzerland's rotating presidency today, told the *Tribune de Genève* yesterday that the "reaction of disappointment and rejection" felt by many Swiss against "improper attacks" on their country over its dealings with Nazi Germany is "absolutely justified". Mr Cotti said the attacks came from "limited geographical spheres, for example the east coast of the United States, particularly from New York."

— AP, Geneva

Khatami breaks US taboo

The Iranian President, Mohammad Khatami, is to speak directly to the American public next week in a television interview that could mark the end of nearly two decades of hostility between Iraq and the United States. The interview — the latest example of the trend towards diplomacy by television — will be aired on the Cable News Network (CNN), probably next Tuesday. It will be conducted by CNN's chief international correspondent, and star female reporter, Christiane Amanpour.

That the Iranian President has agreed to speak to a US network and that the interview will



Christiane Amanpour: will interview Iran leader

be conducted by a woman will send powerful signals both to Americans and Iranians about the prospects for change in Iran.

Ms Amanpour covered the election won by Mr Khatami last year and has reported from Iran on several occasions before and since, touching on sensitive issues like the position of women, but always wearing a headscarf in deference to local sensibilities.

The White House, where officials are said to be locked in debate about the genuineness of recent Iranian overtures to the US, was reportedly preparing to respond to Mr Khatami very soon after the broadcast.

— Mary Dejevsky, Washington

The year

Events in the Middle East have been dominated by the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. The peace process has stalled, and there have been several rounds of violence and negotiations. The situation remains complex and volatile.

Independent

The year the money kept on rolling in for Hollywood

Cinema admissions and box-office takings have hit record highs in the United Kingdom and America during 1997. Paul McCormick, Media Correspondent, examines the boom.

"Folks don't laugh when you have a grand in your back pocket," said Robert Carlyle in *The Full Monty* and well he might. The film cost its makers, Twentieth Century Fox and Channel 4, £22.2m to make and so far has taken almost £100m world-wide. Those kind of crazy returns are symptomatic of what has been a record breaking year for the cinema.

The Full Monty has kept its nose in front of *Men in Black* to be the most successful film of the year in the UK, taking £44.3m at the box office according to the latest figures from the cinema industry.

In all there are estimated to have been 137 million cinema admissions in the UK, up 11 per cent on last year and the highest since 1974.

The bumper admissions - 2.6 million people visit the cinema each week - helped push 15 films above the £10m takings mark for the first time.

The year also saw Britain's biggest ever admissions weekend when *Men in Black* and *The Lost World*, Steven Spielberg's sequel to *Jurassic Park*, opened on 1 August.

The boom in British cinema admissions has been attributed to the multiplex cinemas that have given Britain its highest number of screens for 35 years. But experts believe the bumper year was also film-driven because it was reflected across the Atlantic.

In America box office revenues topped the eye-boggling \$6bn (£3.75bn) mark for the first time and looks set to close at a



Big box office: 'The Lost World: Jurassic Park' helped Hollywood to a record year and Britain's cinemas to their biggest ever weekend

record-breaking \$6.4bn when the final receipts are counted.

In all, Hollywood has produced 15 of what the industry officially describes as "block-busters" - films that make more than \$100m, which is around \$60m in revenues. So far these have been led by *Men in Black* which took \$24m in the US.

Even *Titanic*, which needed

two studios joining together to finance its \$200m price tag and has been beset by delays and negative rumours, is heading for a healthy profit after breaking the three-day box-office record when its opening weekend took \$36m.

Good returns from *My Best Friend's Wedding* (\$127m), which starred Julia Roberts.

The Lost World (\$230m) and the Jim Carey film *Liar Liar* (\$181) have all boosted Hollywood's confidence after years of worrying about the size of budgets and the amount being spent on the top stars' fees.

Now if even *Titanic* can make a profit, budgets at studios are expected to hit the stratosphere. "The studios are built

around such movies," 20th Century Fox executive Tom Sherak told the *New York Daily News*. "You can't just make small movies. So it's safe to say we'll be looking for another blockbuster."

The only major failure of the year have been the over-hyped but critically panned *Batman and Robin*, which will need

video release revenues to cover its \$190m costs and *Speed 2: Cruise Control* which lost \$70m.

Britain has had its share of world-wide success. *Tomorrow Never Dies* is set to become the most profitable Bond movie ever after taking \$140m worldwide in its first 10 days on release. Like *The Full Monty* it was made with American money but

relied largely on British crews and creative talent.

The other big British hits were the very different *Bean* and *The English Patient*. *Bean* cost \$22m to make and brought in a tidy \$200m from the US, which is a long way from *Not the Nine O'Clock News* for its director Mel Smith and star Rowan Atkinson.

TOP DRAWS

Five times five of the best in film in 1997:

- British box-office top five:
1. *The Full Monty* (£44.3m)
2. *Men in Black* (£35.8m)
3. *The Lost World: Jurassic Park* (£25.3m)
4. *Bean* (£17.5m)
5. *Star Wars* (£16.3m)

- Empire magazine's top five
1. *LA Confidential*
2. *Jerry Maguire*
3. *Romeo and Juliet*
4. *The English Patient*
5. *Swingers*

- The Face's top five
1. *Romeo and Juliet*
2. *LA Confidential*
3. *When We Were Kings*
4. *Nil by Mouth*
5. *Swingers*

- Melody Maker's top five
1. *The Full Monty*
2. *A Life Less Ordinary*
3. *Romeo and Juliet*
4. *Men in Black*
5. *Star Wars* (Trilogy)

The Independent's film critic
Ryan Gilbey's top five:
Best film: *Romeo & Juliet*
Best British pictures:
Nil by Mouth and
The English Patient
Best blockbuster:
Men in Black
Funniest film: *Firing With Disaster*

Compiled by James Franck

The English Patient took a similar amount world-wide as well as picking up a startling 12 Oscars.

Ralph Fiennes' character said in *The English Patient* that in memory love lasts forever. It is likely that the movie industry will stay in love with the memory of 1997 for a long time to come.

Favourite things that made the 20th century - and guess who chose the milk bottle



Museum pieces:
A Saab convertible, a milk bottle and a microphone. But who chose them to go on display in the Edinburgh gallery? Was it Sean Connery, Kirsty Wark or James Naughtie?

Celebrities are choosing their favourite objects to epitomise the 20th Century for the exhibition that will open the new Museum of Scotland. David Lister, Arts News Editor, casts his eye over their selections.

Sean Connery chose a milk bottle with a special message in it, as a momento of his and Scotland's past.

Transponting author Irvine Welsh suggested footballer Jim Baxter's shirt from

the 1967 Scotland victory over England at Wembley. *Newsnight* presenter Kirsty Wark chose a less romantic, more materialist perspective on 20th century life than her male colleagues. She settled on a Saab convertible.

Celebrities have been choosing the objects they believe have made a major impact on 20th Century life, or just something that relates to their own 20th Century story. A selection of their choices will feature in an exhibition that will open the new Museum of Scotland later this year.

The museum, adjoining the Royal Mu-

seum on St Andrews Day, 30 November, 1998. The first exhibition in the Twentieth Century Gallery will feature a selection of objects selected by both ordinary people and Scottish celebrities.

Sean Connery, whose first job, well before Bond, was as a milkman, made his choice because "it reminded me of my early days in Edinburgh as a delivery boy", he says. But inside will be a copy of the Arbroath Declaration, the 1320 declaration of independence that accompanied the ascent of Robert the Bruce to the throne of Scotland.

Pat Lally, Lord Provost of Glasgow, has

chosen the European Cup, because in 1967 it was won by a team composed entirely of 11 Scotsmen [playing for Glasgow Celtic], a feat he concedes is unlikely to be repeated in the remainder of this century, or any century.

Iain Banks, the best-selling author, selected the computer. He explains: "I never regarded the typewriter as being much better than a quill pen. But the computer has made writing much less stressful and easier to do."

James Naughtie of Radio 4's *Today* programme makes an appropriate choice: the microphone. "It has done for our centu-

ry what the printing press did in a previous century. It has revolutionised communication, and it's great fun to use," he says.

Other choices include platform boots from fashion designer Jacqui Burke, a First World War tin hat which belonged to the father of Magnus Linklater, journalist and chairman of the Scottish Arts Council (the helmet took an enemy bullet and saved his father's life); and a metal ice-axe from mountaineer Hamish MacInnes - an object he actually invented.

As for Kirsty Wark, her choice of an open-top car might yet appear in the new

museum, as Saab has told the management it would be prepared to dismantle one and build it again to get it into the building. Ms Wark justified her choice to the newspaper *Scotland on Sunday*, saying: "The thing is, when you reach the far side of 40 you look a bit silly in a sports car, but in an open-top Saab you can run around until you are 85. I'm also a shoe fetishist, so I would have to have a pair of Converse trainers, not the boots, and in the original putty-white not all these new-fangled colours. I'm going to be labelled as some kind of tag-hag, but Converse is part of the classic American culture which I thrive on."

Independent spirit keeps British pop on a high note

The British and American film industries have been boosted this year by the majors investing in so-called independent film makers. The music industry could broadly be said to have done the same thing.

When the big labels invested in indie bands such as Oasis and Blur and decided to call them Britpop they sparked a new wave of album-buying in a public that because of dance music had got out of the habit of having rock'n'roll heroes.

While Blur were reinventing themselves with their eponymous album, 'Oasis's much-hyped *Be Here Now* was not met with great critical approval.

So, this year, for Oasis and Blur read The Verve and Radiohead. Both bands have the most nominations from assorted critics for best album - *Urban Hymns* and *OK Com-*

NAME

Best albums of the year:

1. Spiritualized: *Ladies and Gentlemen We Are Floating in Space*
2. Radiohead: *OK Computer*
3. The Verve: *Urban Hymns*
4. Primal Scream: *Vanishing Point*
5. Superfurry Animals: *Radiator*

MIXMAG

Dance music albums of the year

1. The Chemical Brothers: *Dig Your Own Hole*
2. Reprezent: *New Forms*
3. The Prodigy: *The Fat of the Land*
4. Daft Punk: *Homework*
5. Etienne De Crecy: *Super Discount*

THE FACE

Albums of the Year

1. Daft Punk: *Homework*
2. Radiohead: *OK Computer*
3. The Verve: *Urban Hymns*
4. Missy Elliott: *Supa Dupa Fly*
5. Spiritualized: *Ladies And Gentlemen We Are Floating In Space*

MELODY MAKER

Readers' poll best LP of the year

1. Radiohead: *OK Computer*
2. The Verve: *Urban Hymns*
3. Oasis: *Be Here Now*
4. The Prodigy: *The Fat of the Land*
5. Superfurry Animals: *Radiator*

Q MAGAZINE

Readers' poll top five albums of all time

1. Radiohead: *OK Computer*
2. The Beatles: *Revolver*
3. REM: *Automatic for the People*
4. Stone Roses: *The Stone Roses*
5. Nirvana: *Nevermind*



Best of British: Albums by The Verve (top) and Radiohead gained critical and commercial success

puer respectively - and both were commercially successful.

And this does not mean that the guitar bands have seen off dance music. 1997 was the year when everyone went clubbing and James Palumbo's empire at the Ministry of Sound stretched into politics and the media. Indeed The Prodigy's

rather the musical consensus dictates that faceless dance music compilations in their myriad forms rest happily in CD collections next to the "Oxford guitar rock" of Radiohead.

Certainly, the fact that the complex synthesiser-generated

rock/dance music crossover album *The Fat of the Land* is evidence enough that rather than being dedicated to dance music or guitar bands British tastes in 1997 encompassed both.

Certainly, the fact that the complex synthesiser-generated

Brooklynites rue day the Big Apple took a bite

New York City is today commemorating the 'consolidation' of January 1898, when it expanded its borders to embrace Queens, Staten Island and Brooklyn. Overnight, it became the world's second largest city after London. But, as our correspondent discovers, there are some who still believe it was all a huge mistake.

Ken White remembers when Brooklynites could walk the waterfront by its bustling shipping piers and recognise one another 'from the backs of their heads 10 paces away'. He recalls summer days when he and the other boys would skinny-dip under the Brooklyn Bridge, 'waving naked at the tourist boats'.

Those times are long gone. High chain-link fences block all access to the water and the piers are empty now, dark skeletons that have partially collapsed into the East River, their pilings rising from the water like rotting teeth. 'There is no sense of neighbourhood here any more.'

BY DAVID
USBORNE

says Mr White, over breakfast in the Coffee Shop on Atlantic Avenue. 'All that's gone'.

Historians could debate for years the reasons for the decline of Brooklyn: the decline of its shipping heritage to the evaporation of its industrial base and even the departure to the West Coast of its beloved baseball team, the Dodgers. But Mr White, 65, a retired warehouseman born directly under the famed brown-brick Brooklyn Bridge, is clear about the main culprit: Manhattan.

It is 100 years ago today that the then New York City, consisting only of Manhattan and a portion of the Bronx, made a wild land grab, absorbing Queens, Staten Island and all of what, until the night before, had been America's fourth largest city and one of its proudest: Brooklyn.

The annexation, first proposed 30 years earlier by Andrew Haswell Green, in a stroke raised Gotham's population from 2 to 3.4 million and increased its land area from 44 square miles to 300.

Thus, it vaulted itself to be-

coming America's biggest city – eclipsing Chicago – and the second largest in the world, overtaking Paris and coming second only to London.

Today and throughout the year, special celebrations will mark the so-called 'consolidation' that gave birth to New York City as we still know it. Rudolph Giuliani, re-elected mayor last November, will hold inauguration parties in all five boroughs today. In the months ahead, there will be lectures, museum exhibitions and a centenary concert in Central Park.

If Manhattan is your viewpoint, especially lower Manhattan where Wall Street is showering wealth like never before, there is assuredly reason to give thanks. Assume that the purpose of consolidation was to establish New York as a hub for all of the Western hemisphere if not of the whole world – financial, mercantile and cultural – then you must conclude it paid off.

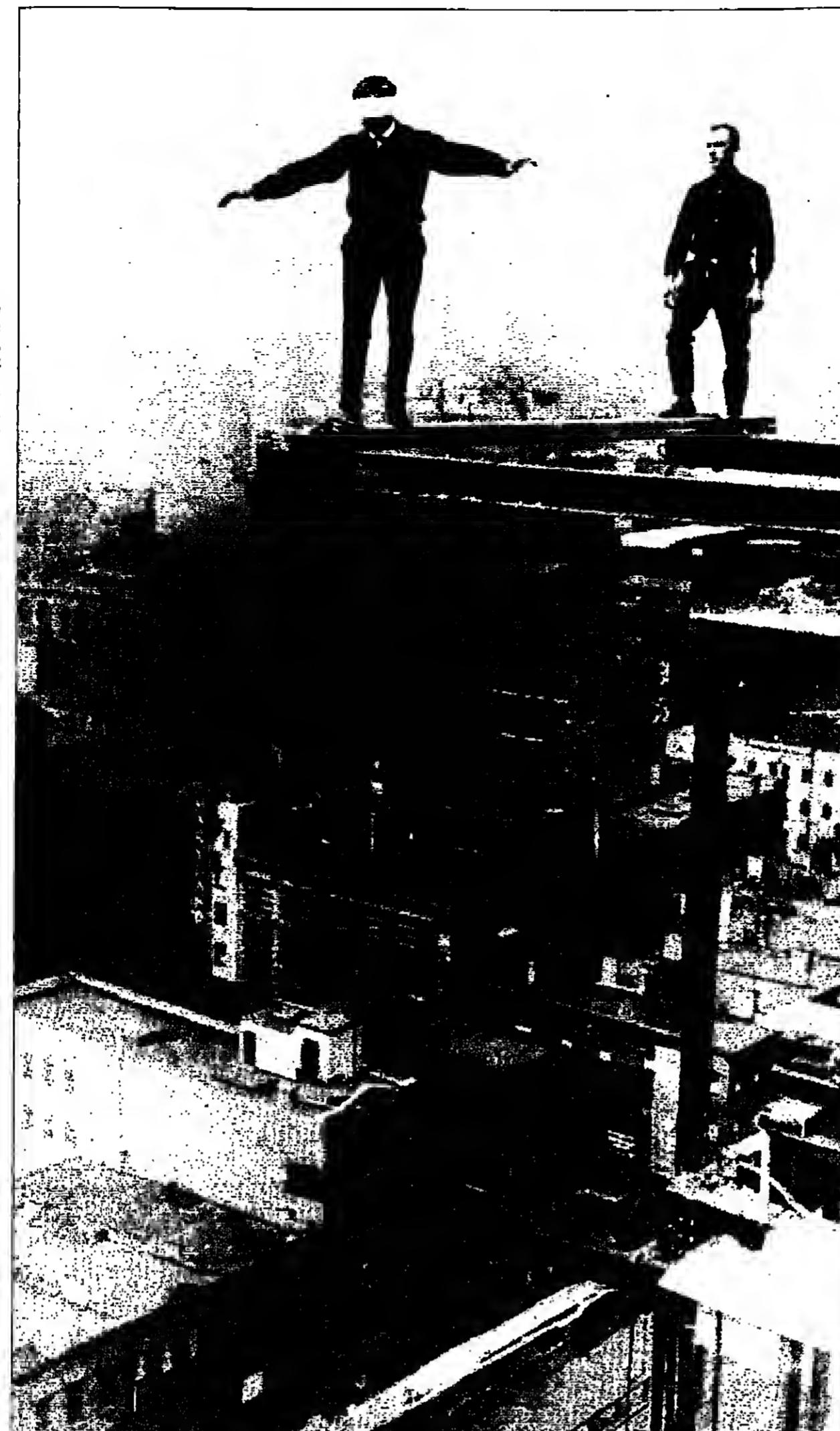
Imagine, says Kenneth Jackson, chairman of the history department at Columbia University, what might have befallen the city otherwise. 'Just a bunch of tall buildings in a tiny city wouldn't be the same image,' he suggests. 'It's helped that it has this gargantuan size'.

Similar enthusiasm is voiced by the historian Robert Caro. 'Consolidation is a tame word for such a magnificent moment,' he waxed. 'What we're celebrating is the moment the city received critical mass. It's the definitive moment in the history of New York. By bringing together the five boroughs in one instant, this became the greatest city in the New World'.

In Brooklyn, sentiments are slightly different. While Brooklyn shares in some of the current fortunes of the city at large, such as fast-falling crime rates, it knows as well as any other borough how wide the gap has recently become between New York's rich and poor. Unemployment in the borough is at 10 per cent, one of the highest rates in all of the country.

Most residents still remember consolidation as the 'Great Mistake', that was opposed at the time by preachers and by its once-mighty newspaper, the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*. Among the concerns then expressed was that the union with Manhattan would open Brooklyn to an influx of Manhattan's immigrant hordes that would for ever change its character. As, in fact, it did.

Brooklynites, none the less, voted in favour of the merger in an 1894 referendum, largely in the hope of drawing on Man-



High jinks: For a century, Brooklyn has been in the shadow of Manhattan's skyscrapers

Photograph: Hulton Getty

hattan's tax revenues to erase city debt. But they did so by the slimmest of margins – 65,744 to 65,467.

'What happened is that City Hall [in Manhattan] instead took everything out of Brooklyn and gave nothing back,' laments Mr White. 'They used our income to improve Manhattan'.

Other, more famous Brook-

lyn natives would agree. 'Manhattan's wealth has been a curse to Brooklyn,' Fred Siegel, an author and history professor at the Cooper Union, told the *New York Times* this week. 'It's like a rich gravy that covers the failure of the food below'. Brooklyn's absorption into New York meant it gave up trying to stand alone and became dependent on hand-outs.

'An independent Brooklyn would have had to develop the economic assets of its citizens,' Mr Siegel argued. 'But instead it had become an object of pity – an opportunity for rich Manhattanites to demonstrate their generosity by providing welfare and social programmes'.

At a recent gathering at the New York City Museum, where

the 600-page charter that established the new, enlarged metropolis will be on display for the rest of the year, the borough historian of Brooklyn, John Manbeck, offered this tartly-phrased birthday message: 'In the words of Dodgers fans: "We was robb'd". Happy Anniversary to New York City from the forgiving people of Brooklyn'.

names of their security guards were coming clean. Even one or two multinational companies, which had evaded tax by partially paying their employees' salaries abroad, were owing up to their misdeeds.

From a European perspective, the amounts of income tax collected in India have been disproportionately small. Out of a population of more than 950 million, only 12 million – 1.26 per cent – are assessed for tax or file tax returns, and of that number only 12,000 earn more than £15,000 per year. Many of India's most glaring problems – its crumbling hospitals and woeful education system, for example – stem from the poverty of its public finances. Even after the end of the VDIS, two-thirds of working Indians – the farmers – pay no income tax at all. But it is arguable that this year's amnesty marks a watershed in people's attitude to coughing up.

Until now, not paying, and not feeling bad about not paying, have been the norm at all levels of society. An engineer earning more than £5,000 a year – a very healthy salary here – explained why. 'Until recently, the highest rates of tax were ab-

surdly high,' he said, 'as high as 80 or 90 per cent. People didn't pay because the government was seen to be pouring money down the drain. They would say, why should I pay when no one else bothers? We've been waiting for good government and for other people to take the initiative before we started paying.'

Nobody is claiming that the quality of government has improved dramatically. But a newly amended clause in the Income Tax Act requiring residents of 12 major cities who fulfil at least two of four criteria – owning a flat, a car or a telephone, or travelling abroad – to file tax returns. And to encourage compliance, the Income Tax Department has been gathering data on high spenders – through the telephone monopoly, international airports, car finance and leasing companies, the Cellphone Operators' Association – and feeding the data into the department's computers in Mumbai.

They gave defaulters until 31 December to come forward.

From today, dramatic enforcement action will commence, with 300 per cent fines and jail sentences for the guilty.

ball and ice-hockey teams, Abe Pollin, should have wanted to build anything in the ruins of central Washington. There is further amazement that the project was approved and built in just two years, amazement all over again that an almost capacity crowd of 20,000 braved the questionable neighbourhood and the public transport system a couple of times a week to attend the games.

The beleaguered mayor, Marion Barry, has taken some of the credit. With the pleasantly surprised air of someone used to taking blame, he says: 'Abe said he wanted to build an arena, but he wanted me to keep him from being bogged down in red tape. I did that.'

President Clinton's decision to attend the opening was as unexpected as Mayor Barry's semi-modesty. Presidents of recent memory have tended to leave the city to its problems, perhaps they did not want to appear to interfere in someone else's – the elected council's – business, perhaps because they preferred not to be associated with such evidence of abject failure as Washington's downtown.

He recently received a group of local councillors and business leaders. He has offered federal government help to repair rundown schools and train the city's unemployed for government jobs. More to the point, he was not rebuffed. 'For 200 years nobody has paid a hill of beans worth of attention to the District [of Columbia],' said one councillor. And here you have the President of the United States ... saying: 'tell me what you think the problems are. I want to do something to help you. I think that's significant as hell'.

Not everyone agrees. There is continuing resentment at what many councillors see as the federal 'takeover' of the city, after Congress approved the appointment of a federal control board to oversee many city departments this summer in recognition of the city's dire state. Ms Barnett's appointment has also been far from welcomed. Some resent her because she is an outsider; others because she is white.

In recent years, the whites blamed the black mayor and his entourage for bad management (and worse). The blacks blamed the federal meanness and the 'white flight' beyond the city boundary. They voted 'their' mayor right back in despite a drug conviction earned while in office – and the whites fled some more.

Most of all, though, the dissenters object to the very idea of a chief executive. Ms Barnett answers to the control board. She has also to cooperate with Mayor Barry and the council. Doing both is a balancing act.

No one should get carried away with the idea that a go-ahead new Washington, full of peace and harmony, is at hand: restoration projects lag behind schedule, and between the new stadium and the White House there are still streets where groups of idle young men lurk menacingly in the shadows. But the season is for optimism – there is already talk of Washington's Olympic prospects for 2012, and if New York and Chicago can revive themselves, why not the capital?

DC rejoices as Clinton learns to love his capital

With the appointment of a new chief executive and evidence of fresh interest from the White House, Washington DC is at a turning point.

Mary Dejevsky asks whether this much-maligned city, which combines some of the most elegant town planning in the United States with some of the country's most hopeless ghettos, could finally change for the better.

The last month of the old year was a kaleidoscope of activity for the US capital. Just before Christmas, the city named an aggressive, no-nonsense Texan, Camille Barnett (aka the Dragon Lady), to be chief executive.

Seen as highly competent, highly intelligent, but less than diplomatic, Ms Barnett has ruffled feathers in previous appointments and is deemed quite capable of doing the same again.

Less than two weeks before that announcement, the Metropolitan Baptist Church in north-west Washington had welcomed an unaccustomed speaker to its Sunday morning service: the President of the United States. It was Bill Clinton's second foray into the rundown hinterland of the White House in less than a week – the first was to the opening of the gleaming new MCI sports stadium – and the proximity of the two outings, each one a rarity for an incumbent president, was widely remarked upon.

Hopes for an upturn in Washington's fortunes have been raised before, of course, only to be dashed. The scale of dereliction in all points east of the centre is such that if it were just another big American city, it would have been given up for lost long ago. Equally, say many who left for the suburbs out of despair, another mayor, another council might have yanked the city up by its bootstraps.

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The opening of the MCI Center, a 20,000-seater stadium and entertainment centre, is one reason why Washingtonians have started tentatively to hope again. A soaring construct of stone and glass that beams like an alien spaceship in the winter dusk, the stadium has been hailed with astonished delight as something little short of a miracle.

There is amazement that anyone, least of all the millionaire owner of the local basket-

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Stars urge Indians to come clean over taxes

India's tax collectors last night celebrated their most lucrative new year ever, as thousands of defaulting tax payers rushed to take advantage of an income tax amnesty that finished at midnight. Peter Popham assessed the conversion rate in New Delhi

More than 75,000 people declared their previously undisclosed income in the past six months, netting the Income Tax Department nearly £900m in tax on £2.9bn of income.

The Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme (VDIS) was the most ambitious of half a dozen that have been staged, and ran for six months. Until late November, the apathy was overwhelming. Then suddenly, following a series of powerful advertisements featuring famous figures from sport and showbusiness, and alarmist magazine articles about the government's new data collecting powers, the trickle turned into a flood.



Kapil Dev: Paying taxes is like sound cricket technique

names of their security guards were coming clean. Even one or two multinational companies, which had evaded tax by partially paying their employees' salaries abroad, were owing up to their misdeeds.

From a European perspective, the amounts of income tax collected in India have been disproportionately small. Out of a population of more than 950 million, only 12 million – 1.26 per cent – are assessed for tax or file tax returns, and of that number only 12,000 earn more than £15,000 per year.

Many of India's most glaring problems – its crumbling hospitals and woeful education system, for example – stem from the poverty of its public finances. Even after the end of the VDIS, two-thirds of working Indians – the farmers – pay no income tax at all. But it is arguable that this year's amnesty marks a watershed in people's attitude to coughing up.

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surdly high,' he said, 'as high as 80 or 90 per cent. People didn't pay because the government was seen to be pouring money down the drain. They would say, why should I pay when no one else bothers? We've been waiting for good government and for other people to take the initiative before we started paying.'

Nobody is claiming that the quality of government has improved dramatically. But a newly amended clause in the Income Tax Act requiring residents of 12 major cities who fulfil at least two of four criteria – owning a flat, a car or a telephone, or travelling abroad – to file tax returns. And to encourage compliance, the Income Tax Department has been gathering data on high spenders – through the telephone monopoly, international airports, car finance and leasing companies, the Cellphone Operators' Association – and feeding the data into the department's computers in Mumbai.

They gave defaulters until 31 December to come forward. From today, dramatic enforcement action will commence, with 300 per cent fines and jail sentences for the guilty.

The government seems to have grasped the fact that most people pay taxes because it is too difficult to do otherwise. But they have sugar-coated this disagreeable truth with a coating of social morality. In a series of cannily conceived adverts, written by Ogilvy and Mather and a local company, popular icons spelled out why paying taxes matters.

Classical musician Ustad Amjad Ali Khan said: 'We need to start seeing taxes as a kind of donation to a good cause. I tend to see taxes as an offering towards the betterment of society.'

The cricketer Kapil Dev offered an even sunnier analysis. 'To me, paying taxes is like having a sound technique in cricket,' he said. 'It helps you grow and stay in the game for a longer time. If you don't pay taxes you are like people who come, make a few quick hundreds, without technique. And then, what happens? You go out tomorrow.'

These may be unfamiliar notions to the majority of Indian citizens. But people are finally coming round to the idea that paying tax may be no more than plain common sense.

'Who do I call, if I want to talk to Europe?' sniffed Kissinger. Between now and 30 June, the answer to that question will be Britain – and if it has any sense, America will be calling often

Twenty-five years to the day after joining what was then called the European Economic Community, Britain today takes over the presidency of the European Union at a pivotal moment. Our correspondent assesses a term during which history will be made.

"Europe," Henry Kissinger once sniffed, "Who do I call, if I want to talk to Europe?" Between now and 30 June, the answer to that question will be Britain – and if it has any sense, America will be calling often. For during that period the EU will take two steps which are crucial to its future: choosing the countries which will launch the single currency in one year's time, and opening negotiations to bring the former Communist nations of Eastern Europe into the Union.

Outwardly, all is in place. The Whitehall machine has been gearing up for months for a presidency whose *lettmain* will be "Europe Working for the People". Already, on the Eurostar platform at Waterloo station, the Prime Minister has unveiled a cloyingly twee logo of 15 stars (pictured), painted by children from each of the member countries. For weeks now, British officials have been assiduously briefing on how this presidency will set bureaucracy aside to focus on issues that matter for ordinary Europeans – the war on crime and drugs, the environment and above all, jobs.

But since he swept to power eight months ago, promising a new spirit of co-operation and

good will to return Britain to a rightful "leading role" in the building of Europe, Tony Blair has learnt that in EU affairs, words are one thing but deeds, not infrequently, another. The "people's Europe" is all very well. However, the jockeying for position in the run up to the single currency and the feuding between Greece and Turkey which sours the enlargement process, are perhaps better indicators of the realities.

From next Thursday, when the Brussels Commission pays its traditional visit to the incoming presidency country, Britain's six months in charge will be studded with weighty gatherings. Robin Cook will travel to Washington as Europe's official standard-

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

bearer. In all, in the first half of 1998 British ministers and officials will chair more than 200 meetings.

But the one that matters most, when the finance ministers decide in early May which currencies are to be locked into the euro from 1 January 1999, takes place not in London but Brussels. And having ruled itself out of first-wave membership, Britain the president will be a mere bystander, albeit a most interested one – so interested indeed that December's summit in Luxembourg nearly came to grief over Britain's insistence that it be given formal observer status at Euro-X, the informal club of countries participating in the euro.

In the end, a compromise was reached which saved Mr

was reached which saved Mr

BRITAIN'S CONTINENTAL DRIFT



1963: The first "Non" of President De Gaulle (pictured) to British membership of the then European Economic Community.

1967: The second De Gaulle veto.

1970: Under the new Conservative government of Edward Heath, formal negotiations start for British accession.

1973: After President

Pompidou lifts the French veto, Britain finally joins the EEC.

1974/75: Harold Wilson conducts his promised "renegotiation" of the terms of British entry.

1975: Referendum on "renegotiation" produces a two-thirds majority in favour of continuing British EEC membership.

1979: Margaret Thatcher becomes Prime Minister, vowing to reduce Britain's large net contribution to the Community budget.

1984: Maggie gets her money back, when the Fontainebleau summit adopts a formula for a British rebate.

1986: Britain signs the Single European Act, spelling out more clearly than ever the "European Idea", and permitting some majority voting in the Council of Ministers.

1990 (October): With the grudging consent of Mrs Thatcher, Britain belatedly joins the Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM).

1990 (November): Mrs Thatcher is forced from power by a Cabinet revolt detonated by her European policies.

1992 (February): Britain signs Maastricht Treaty on European Union, having secured various concessions including an "opt out" on the Social Chapter. An acknowledged diplomatic triumph for John Major.

1992 (September): Sterling is humiliatingly forced out of the ERM on Black Wednesday, 16 September.

1993: Parliament ratifies Maastricht treaty.

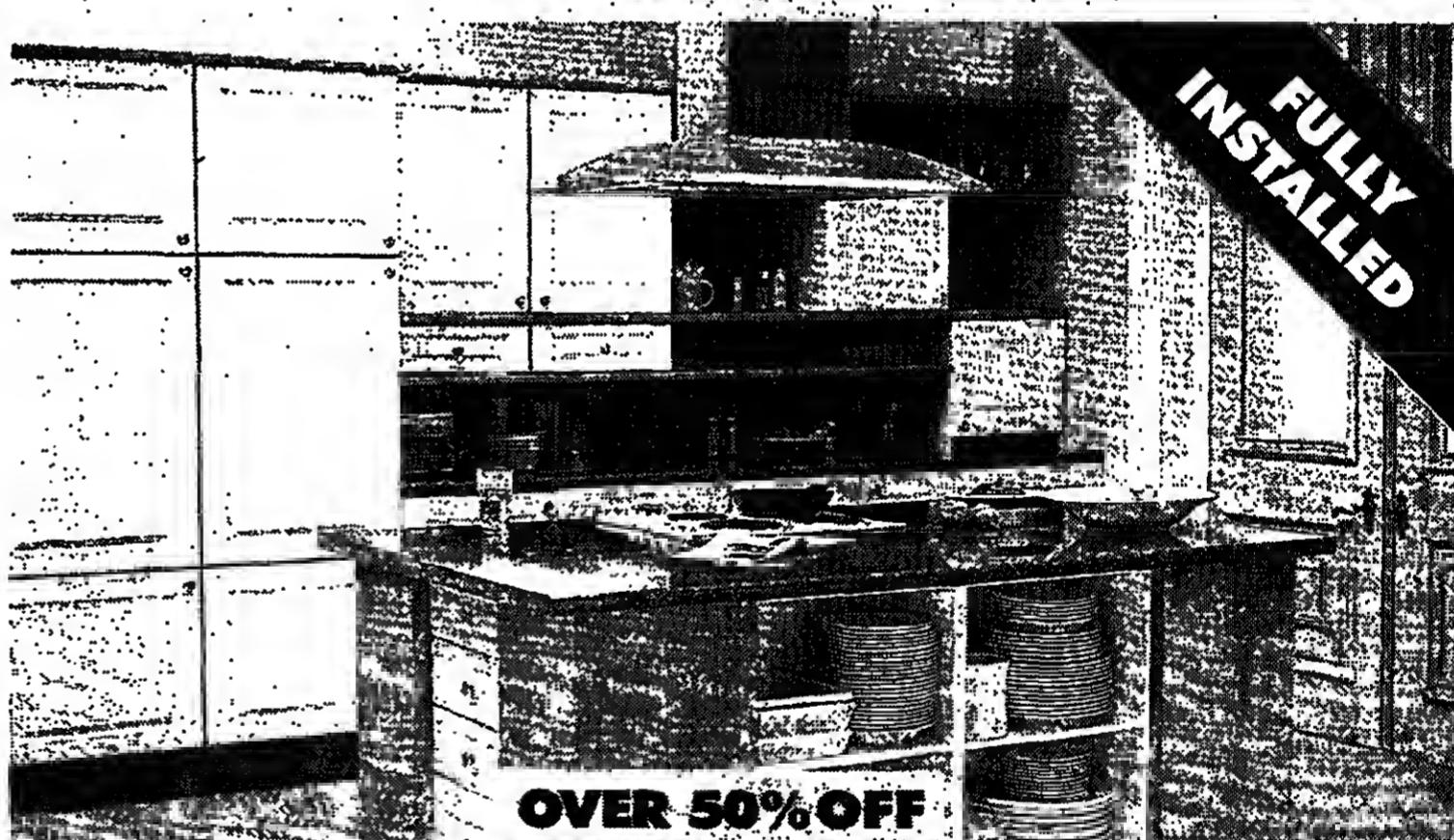
1997 (May): The new Labour Government agrees to sign up to the Social Chapter.

1997 (October): UK and other 14 EU members sign the Amsterdam Treaty, successor to Maastricht and billed as a blueprint for political union. In fact, it fudges the vital issue of EU institutional reform.

1997 (October): Gordon Brown announces Britain will not join the single currency at its launch, and almost certainly not until after 2002.



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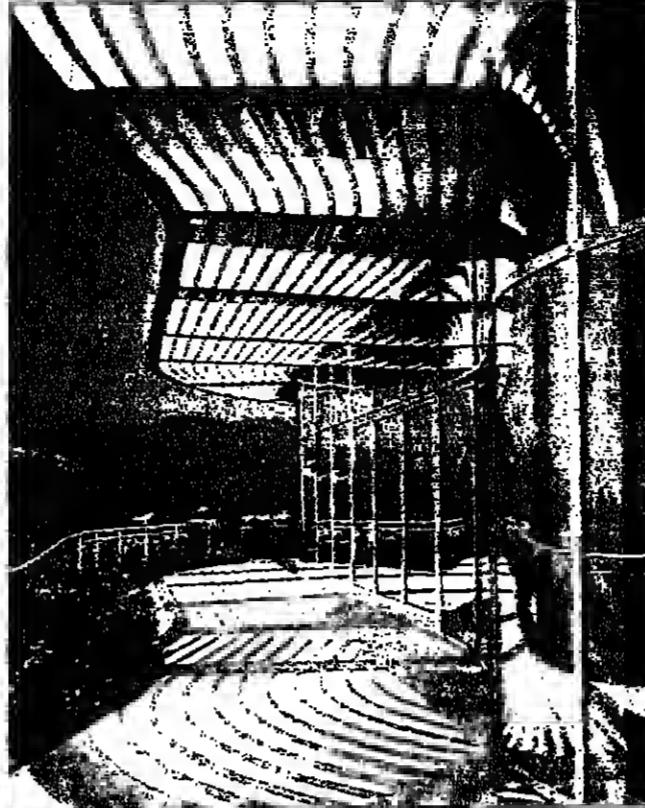
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Beauty spots and carbuncles: the best and worst of 1997



Top of the pops: Frank Gehry's Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, 'a genuinely postmodernist masterpiece' Dennis Gilbert/View



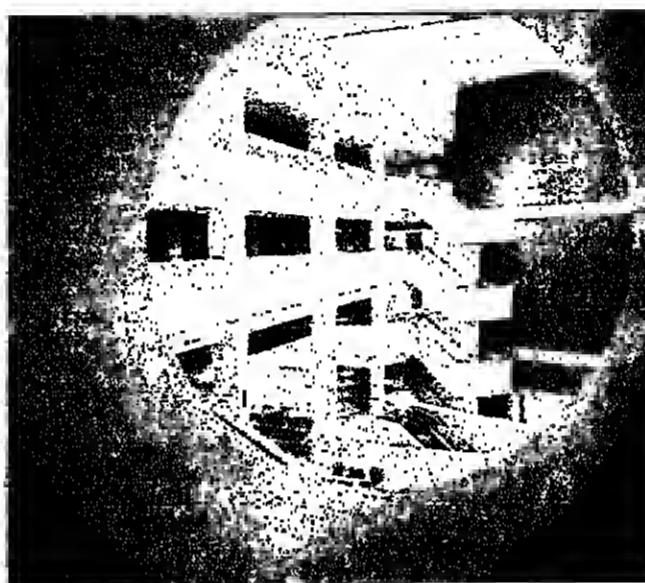
Exquisite understatement: the Getty Museum, a discreet hill town overlooking Los Angeles J. Paul Getty Trust



Ron Arad's Arnika house in Hampstead - refused planning permission by Haringey Council Tom Miller



The Windsor Castle restoration: 'hideous, kitsch and a misuse of craftsmanship as pastiche'



Sandy Wilson's new British Library: a long time coming but 'it's actually rather good'



The Millennium Dome in Greenwich: finally got the go-ahead - without the PVC fabric covering

The new Tate Gallery Banksy or the Getty Museum in LA? What's your favourite new design project? None Niesewand asked leading British practitioners to award their brickbats and bouquets for the year.

Lord Peter Melchett, executive director, Greenpeace UK
The worst decision of 1997 was the Government's to cover the Millennium Dome in Greenwich with a PVC fabric. The best decision came a few months later when they decided to drop the PVC.

Jan Kaplicky, architect at Future Systems
The best of '97 was seeing the B2 bomber flying over and landing. Beauty and function at its best. The worst was the Windsor Castle conversion and restoration. Hideous, kitsch and a misuse of craftsmanship as pastiche.

Fred Manson, director of regeneration & environment, Southwark Council
I have thought about my architectural high point of the year and it is Tony Blair. Who else in 1997 invented a new building type - a People's Parliament? Examples will be built or created in Scotland, Wales and even London. The challenge he has set designers is to build a place that will demonstrate an egalitarian, inclusive approach to government. The further challenge for designers and artists is to find ways of reflecting local and regional identities without being trite.

My worst fear would be Tony Blair in a kilt for Scotland.

Lord Rothschild, chairman of the Millennium Heritage Lottery Fund
Great stories such as the opening up of Somerset House only happen once in a lifetime. The combination of the existing Courtauld paintings; the arrival of the new Gilbert Collection in the South Block; the opening up of the river terrace which boasts some of the finest views of the Thames in London; and the plans to clear the courtyard to create a huge open-air venue for concerts and the possible broadcast of arts events on a giant screen will help to open up one of London's finest public buildings. With these new dimensions this largely forgotten building will now be returned to the central place it once held in the nation's consciousness.

As for lows, I'm depressed and appalled by the cynical design of speculative housing in this country, cladding steel structures in reconstituted stone to look like Edwardian city banks - pretentious and pompous.

Lucy Musgrave, director of the Architecture Foundation
Applause for the British Museum's resolve in upholding a 230-year record of free admission, along with the Tate and other national institutions' commitment to maintain free entry.

The Millennium Commission showed a terrible lack of courage with regard to the Cardiff Bay Opera House, exacerbated by awarding £27m to the scheme minus the winning Zaha Hadid design which was ditched last year.

Eva Jiricna, architect at one of only two architectural practices invited to design the exhibition content in the Millennium Experience at Greenwich
I was pleased that they decided not to charge for entrance to the British Museum which will have a knock-on effect on galleries and museums nationwide. It's critical to keep the doors open.

The worst decision was Haringey Council's to refuse planning permission for the building of Ron Arad's Arnika house in Hampstead - a shame, too, that the anti-campaign had been championed by another architect, John Siebert.

Fred Gowrie, chairman of the Arts Council
My equal favourite buildings this year are the Richard Attenborough Centre for Disability and the Arts in Leicester by Bennetts Associates (and I declare an interest as it was supported by the National Lottery through the Arts Council of England) and the exciting turn of the tide in favour of Sandy Wilson's new British Library. The disasters along the way should not in my view be laid at the door of the architect.

The unquestioned worst is the refacing of Richard Seifert's Royal Garden Hotel in Kensington.

Richard Calvocoressi, keeper, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art
Three cheets for the award by the Heritage Lottery Fund of over £400m since 1995, totalling an astonishing £218m to museums and galleries up and down the country - large and small, national, regional and local - enabling them to realise long-cherished capital projects and to acquire objects for their collections which enhance our cultural life.

I am apprehensive about the successful application by Glasgow City Council to relax conditions on lending works in Sir William Burrell's bequest - a principle has been overturned which will send worrying signals to potential benefactors of our museums and galleries.

Michael Craig-Martin, artist and trustee of the Tate Gallery
For now, Frank Gehry's Bilbao Guggenheim, one of the great buildings of the late 20th century. Extraordinary that the Guggen-

heim Foundation has commissioned two architectural masterpieces in which to show its art collection and exhibitions (the other is the Frank Lloyd Wright building in New York), both of which are problematic for showing art. For the future: Herzog and DeMeuron's Tate Gallery Banksy. Planning is more or less complete and building work has commenced on this immense project to house the Tate's modern international collection. The first great building of the 21st century, designed from the outset to create the best and most varied circumstances for showing art, opening in March 2000.

The worst: the Victorian Fairies show at the Royal Academy.

Professor Will Alsop, architect
For me the Guggenheim Museum by Gehry in Bilbao must rate among the best of the year. I have not heard one had comment on it and it will surely be one of the great attractions and points of interest to an otherwise rather lacklustre city. It is interesting to speculate how the new Tate at Banksy will perform as an architectural piece when it is complete. I tend to think it will not, and that yet again London has missed a major opportunity due to Management-Driven Millennium Mediocrity.

Come on London - do it. It - that is, architecture as completed by a master - will not kill people.

The worst (among the many terrible) must be the next phase of the development at Hammersmith Broadway which is dull, badly designed and offers nothing to that part of west London. It is still no easier to use as a pedestrian than it has been ever since the Hammersmith flyover was first constructed. I fail to understand why the Royal Fine Arts Commission and English Heritage, which spend hours making life difficult for good modern architects and visionary clients, seem to turn a blind eye and maintain silence on such rubbish.

Professor Christopher Frayling, rector, Royal College of Art
Frank Gehry's glass and titanium Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao - a genuinely postmodern masterpiece, with scarcely a straight line in sight and a thrilling relationship with the city and its river. In the UK, the beginnings of a series of ambitious and visionary projects made possible by the National Lottery - of which the Tate Banksy and the Baltic Flour Mills are the grandest - and which will, over the next few years, transform the landscape of contemporary visual art and open it up to new publics.

The worst was the tabloid reaction to the Sensation exhibition at the Royal Academy and the Channel 4 studio discussion "Is Painting Dead?" which followed this year's Turner Prize: the former reduced public debate about art to a series of one-word answers, while the latter made me despair about the parlous state of contemporary art criticism. Our young artists - and especially our painters - deserve much better.

Iain Tuckett, director, Coal Street Community Builders

It was the year when the River Thames at last received the attention it deserves. Lifschutz Davidson's Hungerford Bridge walkways and the Foster/Caro Millennium Bridge both got the go-ahead, and John Prescott announced his determination to create a proper riverbus service. But the most magical moment for me was at sunset on 14 September when Jade Kindar-Martin and Didier Pasquette, both in their twenties, crossed the Thames on a one-inch wide steel wire strung 150ft above the river. Watched by tens of thousands of people on the embankments, bridges and foreshore, the two artists for a moment transformed the geography of the city and showed the possibilities of an annual Thames Festival for which this was the launch event. All credit to organiser, Adrian Evans, and his team of engineers, canoeists and production staff who managed to persuade all those agencies and authorities we pay to keep the city working "normally" to disrupt the traffic, just briefly, to allow this magical event to be shared by so many.

Michael Wilford, winner of the Stirling Prize for Architecture and architect for the Lowry Centre in Salford for the Millennium

First, and most interesting for architects involved in designing new museums, was the recent opening of the Frank Gehry Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao and the opening of the Getty Museum in Los Angeles in December. They represent opposite polarities in terms of current museum design. The Guggenheim in a kind of residual location on the edge of the city expressing grand display in terms of its exterior form which people might consider as being bigger than the art it contains. Fantastic, massive, sculptural contrasts with the Getty discreet hill town overlooking Los Angeles. This used mostly traditional forms and materials and inside the gallery is almost corporate in its manner. The other interesting comparison between the two is that one would expect the hill town to have a hierarchy and structure but all the buildings are given equal weight whereas the almost bizarre, over-the-top Guggenheim does have a hierarchy. Art galleries will never be the same after Bilbao. It is a significant milestone in museum design.

The bad news for architects involved in new public cultural buildings is it is obvious that the Lottery funding available for major new art projects has now been spent and that future projects are likely to be smaller and more diverse in scale.

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13/FEATURES

Nothing a spot of training couldn't cure

RESOLUTIONS

THE TIME: 8 JULY 1992

THE PLACE: THREE LOCATIONS IN NORTH LONDON

Young, gifted and on the way to top of the TV tree, David Attiavonitich stumbled, and found himself in the foothills of the BBC scrapheap. Would a management course set him back on the right track?

Like an arrow shot from the bow of a god, I had – for 15 years – ascended into the heavens of successful, professional manhood. Without really thinking about it I had been president of the National Union of Students, a researcher, then – in double-quick time – a producer on the cerebral TV current affairs show *Weekend World*, and finally, in the line of ascent, at 33, the founding editor of a new politics programme for the BBC. It was clear to me – as it seemed to be clear to the world – that I possessed unusual talents. Who knew how golden the future might not be?

And then, before reaching the stratosphere, my little stick faltered, lost momentum and began slowly to sink to earth. I'll spare you the institutional details. A mistake here, a bit of bad luck there, and approaching my 38th birthday I was to be found in a broom cupboard in the BBC's Westminster HQ at Millbank doing a job that no one really wanted done. Despite this, I couldn't get out of it. Worse, my immediate boss didn't like me, and had convinced himself of my uselessness. Ward had spread.

So, there I sat, wreathed in the fog of 18 fags a day, alternately playing Nobunaga's Ambition on the office PC, and dealing with the endless bickering about rotas and foreign trips that diverted the BBC's troop of political correspondents from the simple truth that too many of them had too little to do. I was, for the first time in my life, depressed – and this depression was deepening. From unbearably arrogant I had swung dangerously towards embittered, and embitterment is usually a terminal condition.

Naturally, I was *horrible* at home. Partners and babies are less superficial adjuncts of the real business of a man's life than they once were. The black dog snarled and yapped at those who succoured you. You only really appreciate the scale of a personal crisis like this when it has passed. Nevertheless I understood that something radical had to be done. I needed to regain control of my destiny somehow.

Redemption, Scene 1. A nicotine-stained and fag-ash-strewn study somewhere in Kentish Town. A pathetic-looking man enters, slouching. He opens a drawer in a desk and takes something out. Then, setting his weak jaw in a parody of determination, he grits his yellow teeth, and tears the object – which we now see to be a packet of Silk Cut Extra Longs – in two. It is not the first time that he has done this.

the poor weak sap, but it turns out to be the last.

Redemption, Scene 2. I am now to be found in the office of the deputy director general of the BBC, an extraordinary, wedge-shaped Art Nouveau place, set in one half of the second floor of the prow of Broadcasting House. I have asked for this meeting to seek the DDG's advice on what I should do next, and he has agreed to meet me.

For a man under constant criticism, he is relaxed, his smile occupying much of the wide face under those big glasses. Thatcher has gone, and he has probably saved the BBC, and what can be done for me? Now, I know that I must not moan, sound negative or attack my superiors in the organisation. If I do, he'll just think that I'm yet another desperate misfit (which, of course, is exactly what I am) and I'll be doomed to 20 years of sisyphean futility. So I talk about having been in the one job too long, and feeling that my talents might be better deployed ... and, absurdly, feel tears of frustration gather behind my eyes.

If he notices the wobble in my voice, the DDG does not acknowledge it. After having heard me out courteously, he gently prescribes his own potent medicine – a management training course. In his view, there is nothing wrong with most people that a good management training course cannot solve. He's been on several himself, and there are lots of different ones specially adapted for almost every situation. Why don't I call the nice people at management training, and fix myself up? At the very least it may help to clarify my goals. And – he doesn't say – if anyone ever needed my goals clarifying, it's me.

Redemption, Scene 3. The Ivy restaurant. This is where Alan Yentob ate back then, and may still do today. And my long-suffering partner had decided that the Ivy was the place where we would celebrate my birthday. At 3pm we turned up between its posh porticos and presented ourselves at the desk.

"What name, madam?" asked a suave, slim, dark young man with – I thought – a supercilious set to his thin mouth. "Powell." The young man screwed up his eyes and searched the short list in front of him. "I am afraid we do not have a Powell," he announced. "But," my partner protested, "you called me earlier today to confirm our reservation!" Suave searched once more. "Ah," he said triumphantly, "but you then cancelled?" You see? We have you down as having phoned in to cancel?" Bewildered, my partner tried again. "Look, I didn't call. Why should I? Could you look again?"

Heaving a big sigh, Suave returned to his book. "Yes," he said finally, "I think I see the problem. Some people called Power had a reservation which they cancelled, and your name was crossed off instead. Unfortunately all our tables inside are now taken, but I can offer you a table out here." He pointed at a couple of ornate, unfaded tables near the entrance. "It's the best we can do."

Up till this moment I had never argued with anyone in a restaurant. I had never sent any money back, or queried a bill, or refused to pay service even for the most tardy and incompetent waiter. But, that night, this is what I said:



Last week my partner made a reservation at this restaurant, and this afternoon it was confirmed. We have arrived here to discover that you have – in error – cancelled our table. At first you tried to suggest that it was she who had made a preposterous mistake. Only when she insisted, did you check and discover that it was you who had been at fault. But even then you did not apologise. Far from it. Instead you offer a windswept exile in the Siberia of your entrance hall, and you do it as though we should be grateful. But we are not grateful. I very much doubt whether you would treat Alan Yentob in this way. Good night." We swept out. And I hadn't felt so good for years. The Ivy's loss became the Spaghetti House's gain.

As was the plan, this group met again four times in the next year to evaluate its progress, and to offer advice and support to each of its members. There was decent Angus, a former wing commander, now hursar of an Oxbridge college; Jim, a mercurial, brilliant and irritating engineer

but – should its owners read this – I am prepared to forgive over a free meal and a complimentary bottle of champagne. There will be five of us at table. It's the least I can do for Sarah and the children.

And I went on the training course that November. It was entitled "The Effective Senior Manager" and was held over three days at a country house in Surrey. Four of us, from different organisations, made up a little group in which we discussed our past careers, our high points and low troughs, and talked about our strategies for the future – all interspersed by peculiar topological diagrams on overhead projectors.

As was the plan, this group met again four times in the next year to evaluate its progress, and to offer advice and support to each of its members. There was decent Angus, a former wing commander, now hursar of an Oxbridge college; Jim, a mercurial, brilliant and irritating engineer

from British Rail, and Doug, production manager at a Midlands factory making plastic packaging.

At our second meeting one thing became terribly clear to me. We were all failures. Angus was – though he didn't know it – loathed by the old-boy City interests who dominated the college financially. Jim was a hopeless manager. Doug, you just knew, would be sacked within the year. He was too conservative to adapt to developments in packaging.

But it was stolid Doug who suggested that I was trying to climb the wrong greasy pole. "You like talking and performing, you do," he told me. "Perhaps you should try that for a living instead." So I did.

Tomorrow: writer Dea Birkett comes to terms with one of life's thunderbolts

I WISH THEY WOULD ...

Debbie Barham suggests how the great and the good could make themselves even greater and better in 1998.

- I will lose some of those excess pounds – Geoffrey Robinson
- I will not leave the table before everyone else has finished – Gerry Adams
- I will keep a diary every day – Alan Clark
- I will wear the same shirt for more than one year running – Manchester United players
- I will stop making such a song and dance out of trivial things – Lord Lloyd-Webber
- I will stop parking in disabled parking spaces – Harriet Harman
- I will stop being horrible to the cat – Cherie Booth
- I will stop picking my nose (from mail-order catalogues) – Michael Jackson
- I will take up a sport of some kind – Tottenham Hotspur football team
- I will finally get around to putting those shelves up – head builder, British Library restoration project
- I will try to get out more – anonymous INLA member, speaking from top security jail
- I will try to get out less – Mike Atherton
- I will be more decisive. Perhaps – Paddy Ashdown
- I will learn to drive – Damon Hill
- I will spend more time away from the TV – Richard and Judy
- I will stop finishing other people's sentences – Judge Hiller Zobel
- I will buy at least one mind-expanding book – David Blunkett's commitment to 1998 education funding
- I will behave more like an individual – memo: from Peter Mandelson, to all Whitehall personnel, re: New Year's Resolutions (urgent)
- I will stop treating people with sarcasm – yeah RIGHT – Jeremy Paxman
- I will start acting my age – Joan Collins, accepting a part in 'Return of the Living Dead'
- I will give more time to the kids – Jack Straw, on sentencing plans for young offenders
- If I win the lottery I will not let it change my lifestyle – Richard Branson
- I will give more money to good causes – Chris Smith, Heritage Secretary
- I will completely cut out red meat – Jack Cunningham
- I will try to make my demands clear – the Inland Revenue
- I will stop talking on the job – Chris Evans
- I will have a good spring-clean – ethnic-cleansing groups in Afghanistan
- I will stop interfering with other people's business – Bill Gates
- I will not shout at people – The Rev Ian Paisley
- I will conquer my fear of appearing in public – Channel Five

DILEMMAS

I gave up smoking. Now it's my husband's turn



VIRGINIA IRONSIDE

Penny gave up smoking nine months ago. Her husband, also a smoker, has cut down to five a day in the flat, out of consideration for her, but she and the children dislike the smell of smoke and argue that it's a health problem as well as a human one. They have no garden or balcony. What should Penny do?

I'm afraid that for Penny, as Elvis used to say, if she's looking for trouble, she's come to the right place. I'm a fanatical anti-smoker, and feel that her demands are quite preposterous, particularly in view of the fact that her poor husband is already smoking barely any cigarettes at all.

Like all born-again non-smokers, Penny wants to control the world and bring everyone round to her views. It happens with born-again Christians, who are frightened of heretics, and it happens in the world of cigarettes too. "Oh, the smell!" say the anti-smoking brigade, holding their noses, without realising that there are numerous anti-smoking sprays around that would fit that immediately. Indeed, even a lighted candle will burn up any few fumes that there are, in the same way as lighting a match in the loo burns up unwanted pongs. Or, "Oh, but passive smoking kills!" they cry, without looking at the evidence properly and finding that, if it's examined properly, it's shot full of holes. What anti-smoking is all about is control, and the smoker knows this and, rightly, gets angry.

After all, if someone comes to your house and pollutes it with his incredibly boring stories or stupid jokes, you don't say he can come again only on condition that he keeps his trap shut; and if someone comes wearing a cheap, sickly scent, you don't ask them to come again minus their perfume. If a disabled person were to come round to Penny's house and dribble throughout the meal, surely Penny would never say that he can only return if he stops dribbling? If someone is drunkenly argumentative, you either don't ask them again, or you have them, warts and all.

Love me, love my dog. Love me, love my habits. Smoking is, after all, part of

someone's personality, and the fact that it is a part of their personality that Penny finds offensive is no reason to ask them to stop it.

In Trollope's *The Way We Live Now*, the smoking Felix puts his finger on it when he says to his mother: "Some women swear they like smoke, others say they hate it like the devil. It depends altogether on whether they wish to flatter or snub a fellow."

Penny is in the snubbing business, and no wonder her husband resists her moves to stop him smoking. After all, she was a smoker once, and she is hardly in a position to condemn him for his pleasures now.

Even John Morgan, a non-smoker, in his *Debrett's New Guide to Etiquette and Manners*, deplores the idea of preventing people smoking at parties, on the grounds that parties are a kind of stew that needs all kinds of different ingredients. Leave one out, and the recipe doesn't necessarily work.

I suspect there is some kind of hidden agenda working here; either Penny is turning into a control freak, or there is something else about her husband that she is starting to dislike and she is pinning her hatred of this on to his smoking. If he gives it up completely she will turn her eye to something else – the hairs in his nose, the way he coughs during television programmes, his mild snoring. His smoking habits are the tip of a much larger iceberg – and intuitively he knows it.

Penny should remember who introduced anti-smoking (and, incidentally, vegetarianism) to our society. None other than our old friend Herr Hitler. I rest my case. She should give her husband a break and let him carry on being himself. Let him smoke 20 a day. I say. With the windows closed.

WHAT READERS SAY

He needs your help

Penny's husband must be aware of what a nuisance it is to have to smoke, and how much simpler and more enjoyable his life would be if he could stop.

However, like most smokers, perhaps he believes that smoking really does something for him, and that in any case, he would find it impossible to give up – despite his wife's example.

Both these beliefs are in fact myths that smokers use to hide their unwillingness to tackle the addiction.

Penny's husband should try reading *Allen Carr's book, The Easy Way to Stop Smoking*, and, if that alone fails to do the trick, attend an Easy Way session. There are clinics in most parts of the UK.

Jin Trimmer, Richmond, Surrey

Try the medical approach

Remind your husband that you gave up smoking for health reasons. Passive smoking increases your risk of heart disease and lung cancer by 25 per cent.

Define a bottom line (ie no smoking inside the house) and stick to it. Love may be blind but it ain't stupid!

Steve Marie, Sheffield, South Yorkshire

Think of the children

This is a difficult poser which highlights personal rights alongside consideration for others. It also emphasises what can happen in a relationship if one person changes to a behaviour incompatible with the behaviour of their partner.

It is difficult to stop a smoker from smoking. Penny would like

to enforce a complete ban on smoking in the house – justifiable on health and human grounds – but her husband has rights too. It is also his house, and he has a right to smoke there.

Penny's husband has done well to cut down to fewer than five cigarettes a day. That is a considerable achievement. However, there are also three children who dislike the smoke. Their needs are important, too. It might be better if Penny's husband smoked in a well-ventilated area, or in one particular room. It is possible to give up smoking, but he will do so only if he truly wants to.

Nicholas E Gough, Swindon

Learn to live with it

If I were Penny's husband, I would enlighten her to the fact that, although she may have

admirably curtailed some risks to her physical health by giving up smoking, she should also have realised that she is at risk of damaging her emotional well-being with her lack of compromise and compassion towards him.

Penny's husband should not be made to suffer for a pleasure she now dislikes, but once enjoyed.

Short of suggesting a spell of marriage guidance counselling to get to the bottom of her dilemma, this lady should accept that her spouse has reduced his cigarette intake at home, and not yet produced divorce papers – and be rather more gracious about it. It takes a lot of guts to become an ex-smoker; it takes even more to stifle the impulse to foist one's fresh-breathed views on others. Lila E Hamil, Slough

NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

This may sound heretical, but I am already dreading the summer because a neighbour a few doors down plays her radio loudly in the garden most afternoons. With this mild winter she has started playing it already, while she is sweeping up the leaves

and as the days grow longer I know the sound will get louder and for longer periods, too. She is a very aggressive person, so I dare not ask her to turn it down, and am thinking of moving. But then the same would probably happen wherever I am. Am I too

sensitive? I am getting obsessed about this. Kath

Letters are welcome, and everyone who has a suggestion quoted will be sent a bouquet from Interflora. Send comments to me at the

Features Department, 'The Independent', 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL (fax: 0171-293 2182), by Tuesday morning.

And if you have a dilemma of your own that you would like to share, please let me know.

Dorothy Stroud

Dorothy Nancy Stroud, museum curator and author; born London 11 January 1910; staff, *Country Life* 1930-41; staff, National Monuments Record 1941-45; Assistant Curator, Sir John Soane's Museum 1945-84; MBE 1968; died London 27 December 1997.

Dorothy Stroud always struck me as two people, as the apily titled Inspector of Sir John Soane's Museum, in Lincoln's Inn Fields, where for almost 40 years she intimidated students of all ages, and the genial partridge-like figure whose life centred on Onslow Square and who enjoyed giving dinner to her friends and making fruitful introductions between them.

Onslow Square, with its cultivated respectability, was of great importance to her, not least because it disguised the struggle of her life, which she hid from all who knew her. In-

deed I always thought of her as a gallant person who deserved an easier path. Occasionally she would talk about her late teens when she was at Edgbaston High School, because certain mid-Staffordshire people whom she had known then meant something to me, but she never mentioned her father or referred to any difficulties in her early life, although it seems that she always had to support her mother.

There seems to have been no question of university, and at the age of 20 she started work at *Country Life* in the Book Department. From there she moved to the Editorial Office to work as Christopher Hussey's secretary, and in a sense that opened the door for her, or rather she made it open for herself. She told Margaret Richardson, her successor Inspector, that it was there that she started to write, first doing occasional book reviews and then a few articles; and she en-

joyed the life of the office, her vivid memories of its absurdities and its characters still making her chuckle 50 years later.

Shortly before the Second World War she began to collect material for a life of Capability Brown, a project in which she was encouraged by Hussey, who was just starting to write about 18th-century landscape at that time; his novel articles on Stourhead appearing in 1938.

In 1941 she left *Country Life* to work with John Summerson in the newly established National Monuments Record, where she was supposed to look after Outer London and take record photographs on her brownie box camera, but they were limited by the short supply and cost of film.

At the end of the war Summerson was appointed Director of Sir John Soane's Museum and he took Stroud as his inspectress, that was there that she started to write, first doing occasional book reviews and then a few articles; and she en-

joyed the museum, which meant unpacking and setting out again in their old places the diverse collections that had been taken away for safety. And for the next 30 years Dorothy Stroud saw her responsibilities as being those of an academic housekeeper rather than a curator compiling catalogues.

She ran the place on a day-to-day basis, typed all the letters on her own typewriter (typically the museum never owned one throughout her time there), preserved JS, as she always referred to him, from those she considered timewasters, and always made the tea in the afternoon for them both and for whoever else she thought worthy of coming into his presence and drinking out of one of Mrs Soane's teacups; she also made the curtains in the museum and scrubbed the sarcophagus; at boldfaced times always went to feed the beloved museum cat.

It was through her dedication that the museum was kept

going on a shoestring until she and Sir John Summerson, as he now was, finally retired (at the ages of 74 and 79) in 1984. Together they had kept it as the most atmospheric museum in London, where one would not have been surprised to encounter the other Sir John re-arranging the busts, and where their only assistant, appointed in 1971, was never allowed a Christian name, always being called Miss Scull, and never permitted to have coffee sitting with them, but made to drink it standing in the outer room. Summerson, it must be admitted, did take Dorothy Stroud for granted, but it was her competence that gave him much of the freedom to get on with his writing.

If Miss Stroud was fierce with students, she was strict with herself, and all her own work was done away from the museum, her research on her days off and her writing mostly in the evenings, tucked up in bed. The years from 1750 to 1820 be-

came her period, first through writing *Capability Brown*. That pre-war and still pioneer project was finally published by *Country Life* in 1950, then reprinted in 1957 and then rewritten for the Faber edition of 1975 in the light of the enormous amount of new material that had come to light in archives and on the ground.

In 1961 she wrote the first post-war book on Soane, *The Architecture of Sir John Soane*, based on a catalogue raisonné of his work compiled for the museum between 1947 and 1957; in 1984 she rewrote it for *Sir John Soane, Architect* (revised by the museum in 1996). In 1962 she published *Humphry Repton*, in 1964 *Henry Holland* and in 1971 *George Dance*.

By the time she retired, she did not have the energy to write any more, and also, partly through what she had written on Brown and Repton, Garden History had earned capital letters and her successors in the field of landscape approached

it through PhDs supported by horticultural footnotes.

However, thanks to the generosity of friends, she was able to do what she wanted most of all, to remain in Onslow Square, until she died. The clouds rolled

Professor Brian F...



Stroud: less curator than academic housekeeper

Danilo Dolci

Danilo Dolci, educationalist, campaigner, writer and poet; born Sesana, Italy 28 June 1924; twice married (two children, five adopted children); died Partinico, Sicily 30 December 1997.

If we know anything about the dark, secretive world of the Sicilian Mafia in the first turbulent years after the Second World War, it is largely thanks to Danilo Dolci. This was a time when the island was in the grip of a vicious Cold War struggle between the interests of disenchanted agricultural workers, and those of the landowners and the racketeers, who for reasons of political expediency – building a bulwark against the Communists and trade unions – found themselves co-opted by the Church and the Christian Democrat party.

During these years the word 'Mafia' never passed the lips of ordinary Sicilians, for reasons of cultural pride as well as fear, and was profoundly misunderstood by the Italian intelligentsia. In an era when most Sicilians were illiterate and spoke nothing but dialect, language itself became a barrier that the mainland could not penetrate.

Dolci's great merit was to live the Sicilian experience at grass-roots level, to conduct painstaking investigations into



Dolci: answered to nobody

living conditions, how power was devolved, and the creeping grip of criminality, and to communicate these things through the considerable power of his writing and poetic sensibility. Along with his contemporary the novelist Leonardo Sciascia, he was instrumental in getting Sicilians to face up to the peculiarities of their own culture and society and inspiring them to fight for change.

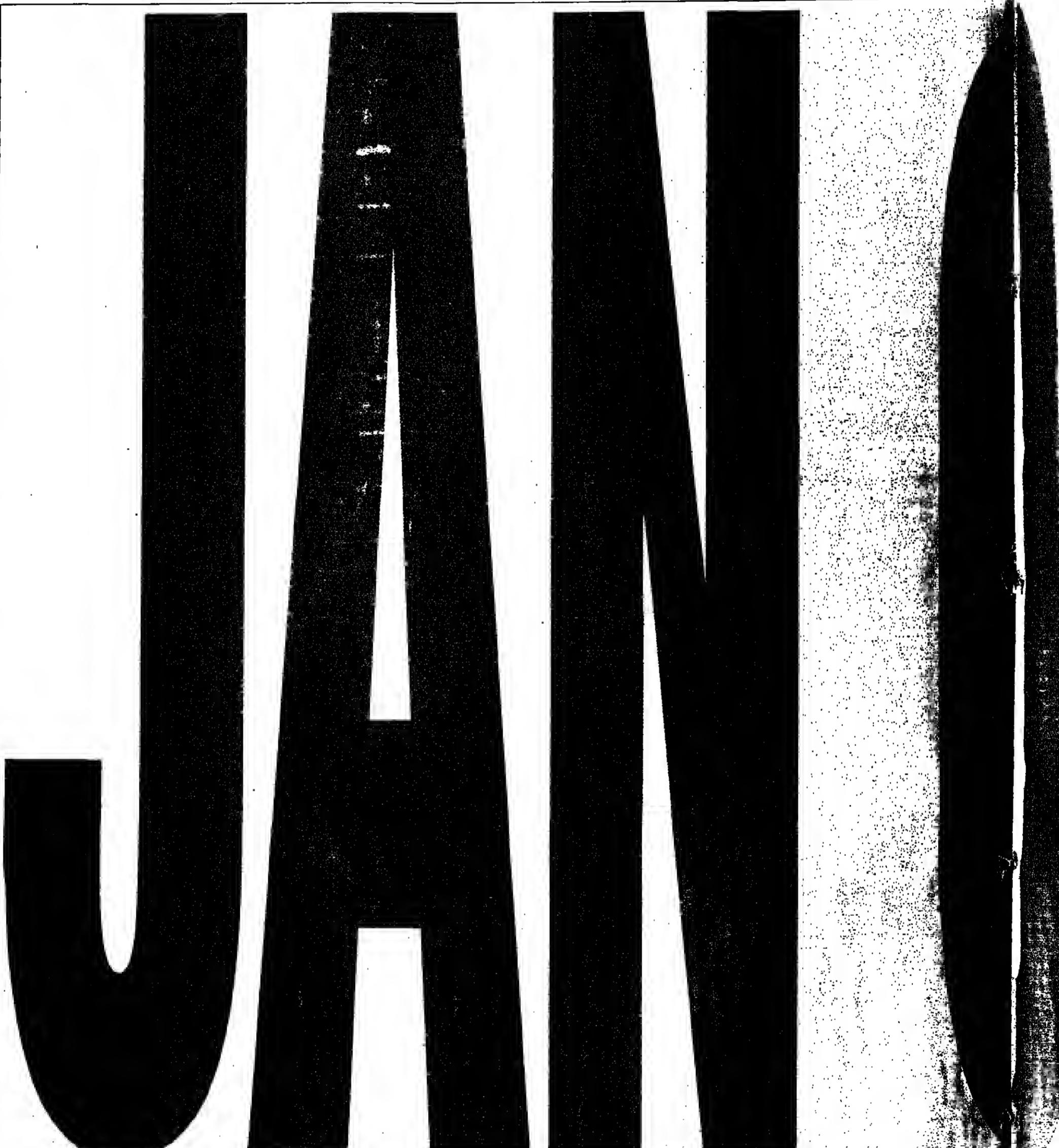
In the 1950s and 1960s Dolci published a series of books (notably, in their English translations, *To Feed the Hungry*, 1955, and *Waste*, 1960) that stunned the outside world with their emotional force and the detail with which he depicted the desperate conditions of the Sicilian countryside. He launched campaign after campaign, modelled closely on Gandhi's examples of non-violence and civil disobedience, to secure such basic human rights as access to clean water and sewage.

Dolci became convinced that the key to progress was through education, and set up his own study centre in Partinico, the village in the Palermo hinterland that became his home. His pedagogical methods, with their emphasis on social awareness and cultural interaction, won him a worldwide reputation, and a small but ardent following at home that took his ideas over the

world. Dolci was a victim of his excessive honesty, not his lack of it. He refused to answer to anybody and never joined a political party despite several invitations from the Italian Communist Party to run for office. Much of his life was lived through symbolic acts: his first wife, Vincenzina Manganò, was the widow of a trade unionist whom he rescued from penury and whose five children he adopted as his own. In the 1970s he rebelled against the state monopoly on broadcasting and set up his own radio station in Partinico in the face of stiff resistance from the police.

His death has triggered a curious mixture of reactions. While the chief anti-Mafia prosecutor in Palermo, Giancarlo Caselli, said Dolci was one of the people who gave him the keys to do his job, the national press gave him surprisingly short shrift, describing him as a historical curiosity whose work has long since been forgotten. Danilo Dolci, it seems, is no less troubling a figure now than he was in those dark, illiterate days of the 1950s.

– Andrew Gumbel



SMOKIN' KILLS

Chief Medical Officers' Warning
1 mg Tar 0.9 mg Nicotine

Professor Brian Foss

Brian Maltzard Foss, academic psychologist; born Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire 25 October 1921; Lecturer, Institute of Experimental Psychology, Oxford 1948-51; Lecturer, Birkbeck College, London 1951-64; Professor of Educational Psychology, Institute of Education, London 1964-68; Professor of Psychology, Bedford College, London 1968-85; Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, London 1985-87; died London 23 December 1997.

Interviewed by a former colleague six weeks before he died, Brian Foss called psychology "the most wonderful subject - the best education possible", thus happily endorsing his own choice of subject and career at the end of the Second World War.

Foss's many publications ranged far more widely than his personal research, covering such topics as human conflict, the function of laughter, the control of movement, and biology and

art. Interests relating to educational psychology were reflected in publications on the development of moral attitudes and behaviour, and on efficient learning.

His range, his succinct prose style, his energy and his little-paraded but ever-present critical acumen led to his shining success as an editor of scholarly but accessible psychological texts, notably, for Methuen, of *The Determinants of Infant Behaviour*, volumes i-iv (1961-68) and also, outstandingly, for Penguin Books, where *New Horizons in Psychology* - which was eventually translated into eight languages - was, in 1965, the first of the 70-odd psychology books to be published by Penguin under his aegis. Under Foss's editorship, the current state of thinking and research in a wide range of areas was described in straightforward language by experts in their fields.

Foss was the son of a Methodist minister. He went up to Cambridge to take a degree in Natural Sciences (Math-

ematics and Physics), after which he entered military service. At the end of the war he was working in a Military Operations Research Unit whose director led him to explore the library of the National Institute of Industrial Psychology, the storehouse of research into human performance. He then went to the Institute of Experimental Psychology at Oxford to take a Diploma in Psychology, the subject not being dignified by university with degree status until 1949, by which time Foss was a Junior Lecturer there. He proceeded to a Lectureship at Birkbeck College, followed by two Professorships, also at London University, the first in Educational Psychology and the second in Psychology.

Foss's research career developed without pause for a doctoral thesis, and, indeed, at a time when a PhD, far from being *de rigueur*, was often conspicuous by its absence from the qualifications of the more illustrious academics.

An early research interest was in human and animal imitation. Foss kept mynah birds in his room at Birkbeck College and their spontaneous reproductions of his telephone, and the sounds of motor cycles starting up outside, did as much as his experimental data to convince him that imitation was a form of learning not dependent on reward.

Innovative investigations into the factors influencing infant development were funded by a series of grants, many for joint research within a specialist neonatal unit set up at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington. Significant work examined the effects of maternal analgesics on neonatal behaviour, and of practice sucking on the feeding skills of pre-term infants.

In 1985, and as a consequence of the pressure to rationalise the constituent schools of London University, it fell to Foss to supervise his department's transfer from Bedford College in Regent's Park to the



Foss: Penguin psychology

renamed Royal Holloway and Bedford New College to Royal Holloway's site at Egham. It is a tribute to his cheerful diplomacy and his organisational skills that he delivered staff and students in good order to the prefabs that became their temporary home, and where teaching continued without interruption. When he retired two years later, he left a department poised to take advantage of the expansion in psychology at a university subject.

Foss, an accomplished chairman, acted in that role from 1972 to 1978 for the Psychology Board of the Council for National Academic Awards (CNA), entrusted with overseeing the establishment of the many new degree courses to be offered by the polytechnics.

He thought it important for psychology students to acquire skills as well as knowledge, but was not one to view psychology as entirely laboratory-based. He looked to tackle the significant, if less amenable, questions

FAITH & REASON

Diana's legacy to the nation for the New Year

The public response to the death of Diana, Princess of Wales and the scale of the electorate's backing for Tony Blair were merely symptoms of a deeper desire for change in British society. The New Year is the time for leaders of all faiths to harness that, says Dr Zaki Badawi, Principal of the Muslim College.

It is by looking to the past that we prepare for the future. Two events dominated 1997. They also help us as a society consider the way forward in 1998. The first is the death of Diana, Princess of Wales whose sudden and gruesome end touched the hearts of people across the world. She was mourned in Cairo as in Calcutta, in Vienna as in Vancouver - and with such single-minded grief that in many countries the loss of Mother Teresa passed almost unnoticed. Britons changed the way they mourned: the millions of flowers offered in homage to her memory manifested an unsuspected well of feelings which were clearly religious though many people in our secular society did not recognise that.

The second event was the arrival of a Labour government with such an overwhelming majority. Few doubted that the Conservatives would lose - after all, they have been attempting suicide for the past decade or so. But the extent of their defeat reflected something of the qualities of probity, firmness and fairness which the voters saw in Tony Blair. It was the year when ordinary people articulated a profound dissatisfaction with the way things were.

Of course there was not change everywhere. The glimmer of hope for peace in Northern Ireland is threatened by an ever-present vicious cycle of feuds between the communities. In the Middle East the peace process has come to a complete halt: without a change of policy by the United States (perhaps allowing Europe and Russia a greater voice in the granting of their long-denied human rights to the Palestinians) the millennium will almost certainly be celebrated with the blood and misery in the birth place of Jesus. And the year also witnessed the trial of British women by foreign courts, in Saudi Arabia and the United States, which prompted a wide section of our press to doubt the system of justice in both countries' national solidarity, it seems, came before anything else.

But where change occurred it brought hope. The

fact that the response of the Muslim community to Diana's death was identical to the rest of the population was a sign of our growing integration. Diana's sensitivity to Islam, in adopting local dress on her visit to Pakistan, and the possibility that she might have been about to marry a Muslim, specially endeared her to us. But it was as a model of kindness, sympathy and approachability that she was held in special esteem.

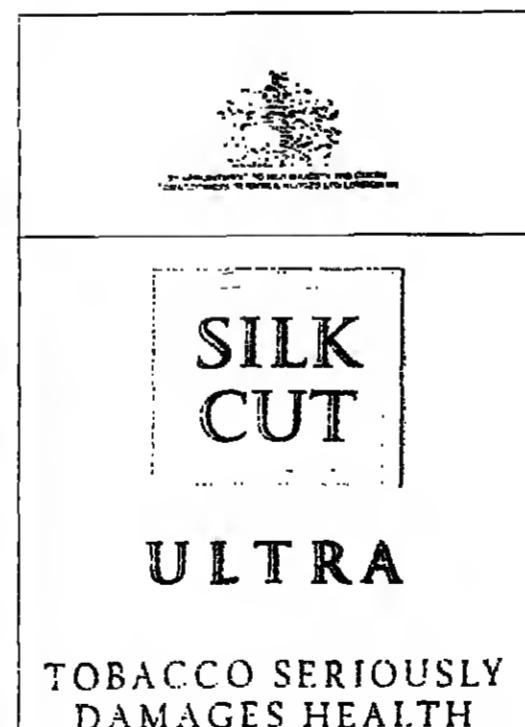
These are spiritual values, but will religion be able to make anything of the groundswell of deep religious feeling manifested in the reaction to her death? This will depend on what religious institutions make of it. Religion is coming back into fashion, but it must not be allowed to fall into the hands of those who would seek to turn it into a commodity, not a goal. If religion is to occupy once more a central place in society it must prove its value as a force for peace, justice and harmony. The messages coming from our pulpits will ring hollow if they fail to influence our congregations towards those values which people saw in Diana and if we fail to show respect for those with whom we disagree.

The Government will have a role in this. The return to religion in a meaningful way must include recovery of the sense of belonging to society. Individualism and selfishness have taken us along the road of the winner takes all, ignoring those who fall by the wayside. Tony Blair's government here will have to edit the script left by the Conservatives - rather than merely acting as executor of Kenneth Clark's will on single mothers, the disabled, undergraduates - and provide new ideas and new directives to our society.

What is encouraging is the new sense of purpose I detect in young people here in the rich world. They show a growing intolerance of misery and deprivation in our midst, or in any corner of the world. They feel a growing impatience with the way the Western powers have, for strategic reasons during the Cold War, allowed tyrants and despots in the rest of the world to enjoy their positions unchallenged. They are awakening to the concept of one world, one peace, one justice and one humanity.

We need now to help the young people of all faiths to talk to one another, to visit each other's homes and to grow in respect for other people and their faiths. With such a vigorous movement in interfaith dialogue, the coming year may witness a return to those great values of our faiths which could help cement our relationship and involve all of us in the drive for the common good. Happy New Year!

What better time to move to 1mg?



MOK KILLS
ers' Warning
Nicotine
1 mg 1 mg

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BIRTHS

MARY GREENWAY: To Mary and Barry, a daughter, Clara Marie, on 14 December 1997, a sister to Rosalie.

DEATHS

JOHN CHURCHIE: On 11 December 1997, Veronique Mary Boyle Churchie, Teacher and writer. Writing she used to say gave her the most enjoyment and she hoped that her novels would have the same effect on her readers. *English Literature* in a girl's high school. Beloved wife of Nicholas and mother of Terry and Alison. Praised for her generosity, perfect honesty, cheerfulness and good humour, she helped with many charities. Interment at Higher Green Cemetery on Monday 5 January. May God grant her life Eternal Peace.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR GUESTS: **BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS** should be sent in writing to the **Guests Editor**, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephone 071-293 201 or faxed to 071-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (inc. VAT). **OBITUARIES** (obituaries, funerals, etc.) and **ANNIVERSARIES** (anniversaries, etc.) must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. Please include a daytime telephone number.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

Six wishes (including the end of endless smiling)



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Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Green taxation

Sir: The main problem with taxation as a means of combating pollution, congestion and similar nuisances ("The questionable credentials of green taxes", 29 December) is that governments become dependent on the revenue it raises. They therefore acquire a vested interest in the continuation of the nuisance and become reluctant to tackle it in more fundamental ways.

Vehicle design is the best way to tackle pollution from vehicles, but manufacturers, who have to please their customers rather than society, will not come up with suitable designs without governmental intervention in the form of vehicle construction and use regulations. Regulation should be based on the principle that no vehicle should consume more non-renewable resources, either in manufacture or use, or should cause more danger, pollution, noise or other nuisance than is strictly necessary for the performance of its function.

One implication is that vehicles with a top speed higher than the national speed limit would not be allowed on public roads. Acceleration would also be limited: the present very high rates of acceleration serve no useful purpose and make vehicles much more dangerous, as well as more polluting, than they need to be.

Even if the present national speed limit of 70mph were retained – and the calculations in Dr Mayer Hillman's and my report for the Policy Studies Institute, "Speed Control and Transport Policy", suggests that it should be reduced to 55mph or lower – these constraints on performance would make it possible to manufacture vehicles with rates of fuel consumption and exhaust emissions a fraction of present ones.

Civilising the vehicle does not remove the need to reduce car travel in towns. Road pricing could be helpful in some towns but other policy instruments are more important. They include traffic avoidance through land-use planning; the reallocation of road space from cars to pedestrians, cyclists and buses; restrictions on car parking; the creation of car-free zones, including residential areas as well as shopping and commercial centres.

STEPHEN FLOWDEN
London NW1

It's a wishful season so here are half a dozen expressions of hope for the year ahead.

Today the United Kingdom assumes the Presidency of the European Union. During the next six months the starting line up for the single currency has to be decided. Britain's position is fixed, which surely gives the Government an unparalleled opportunity to win Continental friends by acting as an impartial chair, seeing the Maastricht criteria on membership are imposed with firmness and fairness. The Presidency is a hulky pulpit and our hope has to be that the Government will also use it to enthuse opinion here in Britain, rather than try (as Gordon Brown was fatally tempted to do a month ago) to lecture our neighbours on their failings. The troika of Blair, Brown and Cook must remember they play to a domestic audience which remains sceptical. Yet people want to be inspired by the possibilities of further European unity. The irrelevance

of mainstream Conservatism lets the Government define the terms of debate. That requires Mr Blair and colleagues to stop pretending that the real opposition on Europe – our American- and Canadian-owned newspapers – can be squared.

That in turn will require our second wish for 1998 to be realised. It is that Mr Blair give up some of his winsomeness and some of his capacity to be all things to all people. There is a difference, he needs to learn between maximising consensus and palliating that mythical middle England.

To lead is to make enemies. The past month has surely learned this lesson home both to Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer. The welfare state needs reformation, though we do not need to mouth the apocalyptic language of American think tanks to describe how. Any programme of change will produce winners and losers, including some of those currently labelled disabled. Mr Blair has shown he is unafraid to face down

opponents. Governing the country calls for periodic and sectional unpopularity.

Yet one problem of the Blair government is that it is all too willing to tell us what is good for us. Commentators have called it Cromwellian, but that is too grand. The Government has sometimes seemed to be made up by nigglers and interferers, by ministers too attracted to prohibitions and removals. Our New Year's wish is that, from what we eat to how we spend, the Government steps back, preferring the policy which maximises our capacity to choose for ourselves and so to create. The Dome is a ready symbol of a policy that depends entirely on creativity. That project will work only if it captures and reflects national imagination and capacity.

Our fourth wish is selfish. Labour inherited from the Conservatives a scheme of press and media regulation that is unfair. To put it bluntly, there are few problems in television, new information technology or newspaper ownership that

would not be solved without the kind of fair competition that prevails elsewhere. This newspaper suffers from competitors' predatory pricing policies that would be disallowed in any other civilised nation. Monopolists such as Rupert Murdoch should be corralled, not for our sake alone, but for the sake of greater pluralism within that "public space" where opinions are traded.

We believe that our political space does not adequately reflect either the public's existing or future preferences and world views and the principal reason is the dominance within it of the historic Labour-Tory duopoly. The way forward is electoral reform, as part of a thoroughgoing overhaul of our governing institutions, starting with Parliament. The Government has made a start but there is a striking contrast between the energy and excitement surrounding the foundation of a Scottish Parliament with the lacklustre approach taken to regenerating democracy in the

House of Commons. This year – our fifth wish – let the Government see that it needs to start campaigning on constitutional reform, rather than treating the issue as an embarrassment. The omens are not good. Only yesterday Lord Jenkins, the chairman of the electoral-commission examining options for PR, said he believed Tony Blair is "persuadable". We cannot afford that kind of passivity.

Our last wish is firmly grounded in reality. There is every good chance that the British economy will have a "soft landing" as growth slows without pushing up unemployment, and down that road lies not only success for the Government's ambitious welfare-to-work plans but several fat years for the public revenues (and public spending). On that note, may we wish you all – our readers – a prosperous new year, since there is every reason to expect that you will have exactly that. Happiness as Polly Toynbee rightly points out opposite, is another story altogether ...

LETTERS



Sir: If green taxes have questionable credentials (article, 29 December) it is because they have at best been misused in the UK so far. The major green tax in this country – the levy on motor fuel – has nothing to do with green taxation at all. It is merely a source of government revenue, with none of the resources raised being targeted at mitigating the effects of motoring on the planet.

Truly hypothesised green taxation offers a method by which government can fully enforce the principle that "the polluter pays" and in the process give a boost to energy-saving and waste-minimising industries.

MARK ELTRINGHAM
Egglecliffe, Teesside

Benefit cuts

Sir: Proposals – albeit by civil servants who may or may not be thinking the unthinkable – to cut industrial injury payments. abolish such benefits for

existing claimants and pass industrial injury benefit schemes over to private sector administrators appear a recipe for disaster rather than revival in our economy ("Blunkett's disquiet", 22 December).

The Health and Safety Executive's economists estimated in the 1990s that up to the equivalent of one year's total economic growth in the UK was lost each year because of poor health and safety in the workplace.

Prevention is always better than cure. A major way to contribute to national prosperity and job creation would be to cut the appalling UK toll of death and disease in the workplace: far more effective than cutting the benefits of those injured and made ill by their work.

Professor ANDREW

WATTERSON
Centre for Occupational and
Environmental Health
De Montfort University
Leicester

Funds for the Dome
Sir: Mick Fickling's letter (30 December) gives the impression that the Millennium Experience is being funded from tax revenues. This is simply not the case.

In fact, the Experience is not receiving any money from the Treasury. It is being paid for through a combination of private sponsorship, lottery money and revenue that the Experience will generate itself through ticket sales and merchandising. The lottery funds allocated to the project amount to only 4 per cent of the total funds distributed to the "good causes" and are provided by the Millennium Commission, a body which was established by Parliament to mark the millennium with capital projects.

Mr Fickling is also wrong to state that the costs of the Experience are escalating. We are ahead of schedule, within budget and on course to deliver an Experience that will in-

volve everyone in Britain and be the envy of the world.

GEZ SAGAR
Head of Press and
Parliamentary Affairs
The New Millennium
Experience Company
London SW1

Sir: The year known to most of the Western world as 2000AD is also the Islamic year 1421, the Jewish year 5800 and the year 2750 by the system of the Roman empire. It will also be about 2005 years after the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, due to ancient calendar errors. I hope that the world's leaders see 2000AD for what it is – a mere curiosity.

CAVI D CAPILDEO
Port of Spain, Republic of
Trinidad and Tobago

Victims of violence
Sir: Our professional experience shows that one of the crucial lessons from the new Birmingham research ("Violent videos don't provoke young

people. Violence does", 29 December) is that there is no "quick fix" for this social problem. Above all, a national strategy must be developed by all the relevant agencies, led by government and implemented at local level.

Government proposals to intervene earlier when young people offend may form part of this strategy but are not enough on their own. More support services for families under stress and for the victims of domestic violence are urgently required. New American research on the impact of "peer pressure" on children's development also reinforces the importance of engaging and supporting young people beyond the home – in school and on the streets.

Developing this kind of integrated strategy may seem a daunting task, but the Birmingham research suggests there is no real alternative in the longer term. We hope policy makers will work with our or-

ganisation and others to meet the challenge.

CAROLINE ABRAHAMS

NCH Action For Children

London N15

Jail university

Sir: Your article "Rooms at the Ritz cheaper than places in child jails" (30 December) leads me to suggest that the Home Office should extract a weekly payment from the parents of the children in these new jails. It would only be a token sum but should be made to reflect the children's wages and be adequately educated totally at the expense of the taxpayer?

On leaving the jail with a skill that gains them legitimate employment, deductions could also be made from the children's wages which would help pay for their education. After all, if that scheme is to be applied to university students, why not former child criminals?

JOHN GOLDSMITH

London SE25

Santa Clauses

Sir: D J Powell (letter, 24 December) asks "Does Santa exist?" and then offers a supposedly scientific argument to the effect that he does not.

I could question the scientific argument on its own terms – for instance, it ignores the thermodynamics of the massive accelerations and decelerations required for the multiple chimney stops – but this is not the point. The science does not disprove the existence of Santa – rather, it tends to imply that Santa is not one person.

In fact, as most children already know, Santa Claus is the original franchised business. Santa manages to hand out millions of presents almost simultaneously in exactly the same way that Colonel Sanders hands out millions of portions of fried chicken. That is not to say that there was no "real" Colonel Sanders – there was.

BOB BROOKS

Bismore, Gloucestershire

Chez Jesus

Sir: It states very clearly in the Bible that the wise men visited Jesus in a house (Matthew ch2 v11), not a stable (Meanings of Christmas, 29 and 30 December). Why on earth would a couple with a new baby want to remain in an insubstantial stable any longer than necessary?

JANE DANCE

London E3

Old Labour

Sir: While having a clear-out of old papers, I came across a Labour Party policy document from about September 1996, which promises "Women will benefit from a range of our policies including ... support for single-parent families".

ALLAN DEEDS

Daventry, Northamptonshire

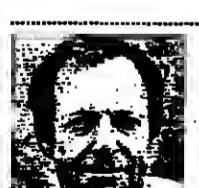
Cold comfort

Sir: James Jacoby leaves us wondering (Letters, 30 December) whether the lock he proposes is to keep the contents of his fridge safe from his ever-hungry teenage sons or, perhaps understandably at this time of year, to make a convenient form of sub-zero incarceration. If the latter, has he not tried the garden shed?

R FRANKLIN

London EC1

Here it is: a year for remarkable progress. Chicken Spice is especially hopeful



MILES
KINGTON

Other papers may tamely you bring you a round-up of the highlights of 1997. Only this column brings you a run-down of the main events of 1998 before they arrive. So hold your seats as we whizz through the year to come ...!

JANUARY '98 Name of cannabis-dealing cabinet minister's son printed in Scottish papers. Nobody has heard of him. Man in Macao diagnosed as having bird flu. All poultry in Macao slaughtered. Chris Patten forced to rewrite chapter on Asia. Tony Blair comes back from holiday in Seychelles with smiling suntan. Experts think that smiling suntanned PM may pose a health risk to country. England nearly win cricket

match in West Indies. Manchester United boss Alex Ferguson says: "The season is not over till the last match is played". After weeks of torrential rain and flooding, water companies say they may soon lift hosepipe ban. Edinburgh plays host to the "Biggest Burns Night in the World". Many dead. Spice Girls split-up rumour denied.

FEBRUARY '98 Entire staff of *Independent on Sunday* arrested for selling each other cannabis. Nobody has heard of any of them. Outbreak of bird flu in Shanghai. All fowls slaughtered. Chris Patten forced to rewrite chapter on Shanghai in his new book on Asia. Alex Ferguson says: "Anything can happen between now

and the end of the season". After studying videos of the Tyson-Holyfield fight, in which Tyson hit Holyfield's ear off, police finally arrest Tyson on cannibalism charges. Man arrested in Slough for passing fake money in shop. It turns out he was trying to pay in euros. Spice Girls deny they are going to play their last live gig, saying: "We haven't really played our first live gig yet, have we?" Peter Mandelson named as father of cannabis-dealing son. He sues. MARCH '98 Spice Girls break-up rumour denied by Max Clifford. Tony Blair announces grand Millennium plan to combat unemployment. A huge, newly recruited workforce will be trained to prevent millennium crash in computers.

Disney announces it is to make its biggest and most expensive film yet: an animated version of The Bible. Alex Ferguson says: "Hold on, hold on – it's not the end of the season yet. Oh, is it? Did we win?" Chris Patten diagnosed as having bird flu. Ghost writer drafted in to help finish his book on Asia. Rumours spread like wildfire that Salman Rushdie has been assassinated, and that the *fatwa* against him, being successful, can now be called off.

APRIL '98 Many pantomimes reluctantly close, throwing enormous quantity of unemployed showbiz people on market place. "No romance between Jesus and Mary Magdalene," promises Disney. Rumour grows that Salman Rushdie is

still alive, and that news of his "death" was promulgated by police to get *fatwa* ended. National shock and horror as Richard Branson perishes in high-level balloon accident. In his will, he asks that Sir Elton John not be asked to sing at his funeral, which he asks to take place in Millennium Dome. Mike Tyson acquitted of cannibalism charges on the grounds that he did not eat Evander Holyfield. Holding Ffion's hand, Hague says proudly: "I am going to be a fighter!"

MAY '98 Spice Girls diagnosed as having bird flu. "This will not change our plans," says Chicken Spice. The "late" Salman Rushdie spotted at many parties. Alex Ferguson says: "It's a long way in the start of the

season, so we'll just wait and see." Tony Blair passes law which will devolve responsibility for the behaviour of Scottish fans in World Cup to new Scottish Parliament. Pope expresses outrage on learning that Disney "The Bible" film will have a happy ending, with Jesus not dying on cross, but staying on to become elder statesman. "We feel it is a Jesus story for a less violent, more-in-touch-with-its-feelings age," says Disney. Mohammed Al Fayed brought into the Cabinet by Tony Blair. "We need his experience," says Blair.

JUNE '98 Bill Clinton contracts strange disease, diagnosed as Presidential withdrawal symptoms. "He cannot by law be President for a third time,"

say doctors. "but his body does not know that. Basically, he doesn't want to be President again, he just craves to run again. He was never a very good president, only a wonderful candidate. It's a tragic case." World Cup opens in France. Scotland loses opening game against little-fancied Liechtenstein. "We are our own worst enemies," says Craig Brown. Spice Girls split and re-form. Tony Blair goes on holiday in Mohammed Al Fayed's castle in Scotland. Chris Patten's ghost writer gets ghost bird flu. Sir Elton John found in serious condition, but cheers up later. Silly season starts.

July to December round-up coming tomorrow!

You can't legislate for happiness, but you can try

**POLLY TOYNBEE
ON A BETTER
NEW YEAR**

What do we want for the new year? Most of us resolve to be thinner, fitter and better (probably in that order) but there's not much a government can do to help us there. Those of us obsessed with the daily doings of government often forget how peripheral it is to most people's general happiness.

Government may marginally affect how much money we have in our pockets. But sophisticated research into happiness suggests that there is no correlation between increases in cash and increases in happiness for most people. (Yes, all those old homilies really are true.) Once lifted above penury, money doesn't much matter. Yet money is the only way governments measure what they do. We have economic, trade and production indicators, nice, easy tallies of national success and failure, but those tell us very little about how we feel, individually or as a nation.

Alongside those figures, perhaps we should collect National Happiness Ratings (NHR) as the true measure of our state. Annual figures would have to be seasonally adjusted, since monthly figures might dip sharply at this low ebb of the year with many suffering from SADness (seasonal affective disorder), or just post-Christmas gloom. But NHR could be a critical test of a government's stewardship. After all, a prime historical purpose of government is to secure the greatest happiness for the greatest number. The American constitution even has the pursuit of happiness as a right. But the pursuit of wealth seems to be all governments can manage - a more modest ambition.

Lifting the national spirits is a difficult business. Simply by being elected, this government gave us a good couple of months' euphoria. The most unlikely people, who hadn't even voted for it, found themselves surprised by an unexpected glow of optimism. It wasn't just glee at seeing the previous incumbents slinking away in all their shabby, mean-minded, valueless tatters. Inchoate and maybe unreasonable hope was in the air.

Then events began to eat into Labour, the way events always do. Have they lost their way? Do they still know what they are there for? Can we remember what we hoped for and why we hoped so much? Yes, is the answer. There is still plenty to hope for. OK, so the lone-parent benefit fiasco suggests they lost the plot, if the plot was to make the lives of the poorest better. It was, though, a bungled botch, not an emblem of their true intent. But it has left them with twice the obligation to prove their good intentions and recover that spirit of hope and generosity people felt at their election.

What could this government do to push up the National Happiness Rating? The easiest place to start is by tackling those who are unhappy for the most obvious and tangible reasons - the poor for whom money really does matter. Start, say, with the 1.8 million poor pensioners living on income support. They are no use to anyone, their productivity and employment irrelevant on every

other national indicator. But if happiness counted, the NHR would get a terrific boost by giving a large pensioner supplement on income support, easily financed out of the billions to be saved by abolishing National Insurance benefits for all the better off. Ditto the severely disabled and anyone else who, for whatever reason, will never work again. That would make everyone feel better.

But most people are not poor. So if the Government could really persuade itself to believe that money is not everything, it could be less fearful of taxes and more ambitious about generating public hope, pleasure and pride. Every pound spent well on the public good stands a far better chance of improving the NHR than each extra pound in the pocket. The right says the individual will always spend his or her own money better than the state - but over 18 years they have proved themselves conclusively wrong.

The Conservatives left behind a public squalor and dilapidation which demoralised and degraded us. While the huge growth in home ownership was one of the few Tory achievements, it was partly soured by the growing shabbiness and lack of pride in all the public places and spaces where people spend so much of their time once they leave their front doors.

Children spend years in seedy, rundown schools; it's hard to make them believe that what goes on in the classroom is valuable if the school itself is like a leaking, rundown dossouse with stinking lavatories and no books. Doctors and nurses may still be heroes, but if people visit grubby, understaffed hospitals that run out of sheets, they don't feel the pride they did in a national health service.

How are people to feel good about work, when travelling there grows more hellish every year, with chaotic railways, crammed carriages and a London tube system fast becoming a nightmare? (Last week I spent half an hour comforting a distressed elderly woman panicking as we were stuck in a tunnel while she was missing her long-awaited hospital appointment.)

Governments can do little about personal happiness: some people are naturally disposed to be happy, others never will be. Try as they foolishly might, governments can do nothing to create the stable, happy families most people want. Nor can governments do much to ease people's anxiety about insecure working conditions in this global market.

But out there, in the public part of our lives, this government could do much to raise spirits. First it has to believe it itself. It's time the Government started to say that well-being depends at least as much on public spending for the common good as it does on private spending. It is not old socialist redistribution, but an obvious truth: some of the things that make us feel good can only be bought communally. If no one dares say that, certainly no one will dare do it.

The economic gains of the past 18 years - most people are 30 per cent richer - were invisible to the public eye. Video recorders, foreign holidays, mobile phones, new cars, video cameras, all these were private pleasures. Meanwhile, out on the streets and in the public places, we looked and felt seedy and run-down. It wasn't just the obvious signs - new battalions of beggars and rough sleepers, the peeling paint on every public building - there was a deliberate denigration of civic pride, public values, public service.

Now is the time for a good government to make our public wealth match our private riches. If that means spending a few more public pounds and a few fewer private ones to redress the balance, so be it. Good public transport, beautiful parks, bright streets, inspiring school buildings, museums, public sports centres and gleaming hospitals would make us all feel better about ourselves.



Different hues: the Irish do not share the English perspective on hunting
Photograph: Tom Pilston

Share the tribal language and you will always find a welcome

JOHN WALSH



the company with "Spaniel Hill" and "Lovely Letrim" and (rather a change of pace, here) Elvis Presley's "Wooden Heart" and the national anthem (everyone in the bar stood up and glared at my still-seated form; this would never happen, I am fairly sure, in Dulwich) - has gone home, but this does not stop the chap beside me singing "Mursheen Durkin" with a kind of brutal hilarity. It is at this moment that Martin, the weather-beaten, seen-it-all-barman, rushes into the lounge.

"Quiet," he commands us. "The guards are outside." Yeah, yeah. This is an old barman's threat, as old as the crumpling Norman castles that dot the Atlantic shoreline. But it might be true. After-hours drinking is still illegal even here. The landlord could be fined or lose his licence. The carousers would then become the object of public obloquy for being responsible for the loss of his livelihood. Nobody wants to see Martin and his hearty, welcoming wife pitched out of the parish. So, for the moment,

Tom stops singing. One of the ladies turns slightly pale, like a novice nun caught in a speakeasy, and knocks back her modest brandy and soda as if it will incriminate her. And in comes the majesty of the law.

Against all the odds, the bloody Garda Siochana are outside. We now have a cop in our midst, with his peaked cap and businesslike bustle. We sit, as red-handed as Macbeth, with six pints of Guinness, whiskies, port-and-lemonades and assorted drinker's paraphernalia in front of us, as he moves around taking in the scene. He walks urgently across the bar, his forensic sobriety contrasting with our shame-faced fuzziness. We are all for the high jump. What can we do? I am reminded of a Flann O'Brien playlet called *Thirst*, where a group of after-hours

topers try to persuade a policeman to drink with them by talking to him about sand dunes, palm trees, the Gobi Desert, the pitiless sun. I'm afraid this will not work here. The guard surveys the scene one more time - our embarrassed faces, our table groaning with alcohol - and says, "I'm awful sorry to be disturbing you all". Can he be serious? Is he being ironic? I look at Tom and Frank and the others and suddenly see how they might be causing the law a few problems. For they represent, between them, two headmasters, the local vet, two teachers, one ward sister and the pillars of a dozen local committees.

If the policeman ever wants to get his children into secondary education, have his dog cured of distemper or his old Mum successfully relieved of a grumbling appendix in the Regional Hospital, it might be wise to practise leniency with this bunch. But how can he do so without seeming to falter? He looks round the bar a last time. Then he speaks. "Caith siar iad," he says, and departs. My Gaelic is rusty, but I believe this means "They'll throw them back". He has let us off, and done so by the skilful means, by saying it in Irish - forsaking the letter of the law and the language of the old oppressor for the language of the tribe. There is a silence after the closing door. "Now Frank," says one of the teachers, "Can you still do 'Take These Chains From My Heart'?"

It is 11.15am in a small town in the west of Ireland. The inhabitants of County Galway have celebrated the festive season with oceans of Jameson and Baileys, everyone has gone to Mass, local children affect to believe in someone called "Santa", and carols play redundantly over the Tannoy in the clothes store, days after everyone has grown tired of the whole joyful business. The weather has been foul, the rain persistent, shading into malevolent.

It is the turn-of-the-year interregnum, a time for calm reflection with mature and philosophically-disposed associates. Which is why we find ourselves in this pleasant bar, 10 of us, at 11.15 in the rainy night-time. Michael the accordion player - having beguiled Monday evening, we clamber into tuxedos and waistcoats for the annual Hunt Ball in Oranmore. The Galway Blazers is just one of three hunts in the region, but has the reputation of being the hardest-riding, the toughest, the most intrepid. Few people can remember much trouble from saboteurs in the last couple of years, since

It will be a time of wars and willies. Lots of lovely news, in fact

**RUPERT CORNWELL
A HICcup
OF HISTORY**

What one may wonder surveying 1997, has happened to news? True, last year was a cracker for the British. If we measure it by our own contribution to newsworthy events on this planet. According to an annual poll by the Associated Press news agency of its newspaper subscribers, no less than three of the six biggest international stories were British-made. Top of the list, naturally, was the death of Princess Diana, followed by the handover of Hong Kong, and in sixth place, the election of Tony Blair. Not bad for an offshore

island, containing only one hundredth of the world's population, at peace and without an external enemy in sight. But consider them again.

International news used to consist of events that were unexpected and dramatic, sometimes villainous, and which could shape the destiny of peoples and states. Diana's death though was ultimately merely that of a super-celebrity, however unexpected. The transfer of Hong Kong to China meets the destiny-shaping qualification, but it had been on the stocks for 13 years and went off exactly as planned. As for Mr Blair's victory, it may yet reshape our future. But once again, it was anything but unexpected. What happened to the coups, resignations, assassinations, natural disasters and wars of yesteryear? By that yardstick, 1997 looks a dud Stability, you might think, is breaking out all over. Maybe we haven't reached the end of history, but during the last 12 months it sometimes felt like it.

One reason is that everything which now happens abroad comes as an anticlimax after the geopolitical upheavals of 1987 to 1991, which culminated in the collapse of the Soviet Union. In truth however,

it was business as usual in 1997 for coups, assassinations and wars (although it was a "poor" year for natural disasters). Alas, foreign news has not been the same since the end of the Cold War. Back then, small confrontations could have deadly potential consequences, and we cared. These days, even medium sized wars seem local matters. The planet remains a very violent place. But the majority of these wars are within states, not between them.

At the end of 1997, London's International Institute for Strategic Studies identified just nine old-style interstate conflicts (mostly border conflicts in Africa) compared with 19 "infrastate". These latter include full-blown civil wars such as those in Algeria, Afghanistan, and Rwanda but not the two dozen countries blighted by terrorism, among them nations such as Egypt where terrorism possibly could expand into civil war. What is missing is the old East-West dimension.

So maybe the Yankees baseball player and legendary bawstool sage Yogi Berra is spot on with his mangled syntax: "The future ain't what it used to be." But all is not lost. Despite the changing forces which shape our world, we still belong to the quarrelsome human species, perennially aggressive and ever unsatisfied with its lot. The world is not the tedious place it seems. Indeed, 1998 has rich potential for news the way it used to be.

The most likely theatre for a new war is, as always, the Middle East, where the Israel/Arab conflict is virtually the last of the "old news" crises to have outlived the demise of the Cold War. Thanks to Benjamin Netanyahu, it may well turn into a hot one which could have

direct implications for all of us, especially if it is fanned by an increasingly turbulent Saddam Hussein, or if other combustibles such as Islamic fundamentalism in Egypt or Saudi Arabia enter the brew.

Closer to home, things could get exciting. Maybe financial cataclysm from the Orient will dispel the unnatural aura of inevitability that has settled on the single currency, the most ambitious single step towards a unified Europe since the Treaty of Rome 41 years ago. Next autumn, German voters have a chance to do what they have never done in the post-war history of their country, and throw out a chancellor at the ballot box. If they do elect a centre coalition after 16 years of Helmut Kohl, it would be a change no less momentous than the advent of New Labour here. 1998 too might be when Boris Yeltsin succumbs to ill-health and the asturial scientist fat he has already exceeded the average lifespan of the Russian male by seven years.

The most unexpected country award for 1998 is likely to go to the US, basking not just in unchallenged military might but in economic supremacy too, as those once coky Far Eastern tigers go to the wall. Certainly, the mayhem will continue, and the law of averages will ensure that 1998 is more newsworthy than 1997. That of course may cost us our place in the top six. But then again, maybe not. Not if we win the World Cup.

New Internationalist magazine

Bill doesn't get it

SO HE DOESN'T ACCEPT that the damage to our environment has anything to do with emissions from burning fossil fuels; he doesn't understand how over-consumption in the United States drains away the finite resources of our world; and he doesn't see why his country with all its power should set an example in the adoption of green policies. To top it all, he doesn't even realise the significance of refusing to sign up to the international treaty for the ban on landmines. Bill, you've sold out to the oil companies and arms dealers - do yourself a favour and get the NI!

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Farce as Stock Exchange rethinks closing prices

A roller-coaster year for the London stock market
descended into farce yesterday after the Stock Exchange amended the closing prices of more than one in 10 of the FTSE 100 stocks after the market lost 32 points in the last few minutes of trading. Clifford German reports on the Exchange's attempts to prevent rogue trading.

The index of leading shares fell 31.8 points in the last 10 minutes of trading to close at 5,133.8, but after an hour's deliberation it was revised back up to 5,135.5, a gain of 3.2 on the day and almost 25 per cent on the year. At midday the index had been 33.3 higher at 5,165.6.

The Stock Exchange subsequently decided to strike out closing prices for 11 Footsie stocks.

One stock – Sun Life & Provincial – was revised up by 6.5 per cent after the Exchange struck out a final deal at 430p and replaced it with a price of 460p, while Reed International's share price was amended to 610p from 580p, a 5.2 per cent revision. Bank of Scotland, British Land, Glaxo Wellcome, Halifax, Lasmo, Norwich Union, Shell and Tomkins were all amended upwards while General Accident had its closing price cut back.

Yesterday's unprecedented actions are acutely embarrassing for the Exchange,

which had hoped to avoid sharp moves in share prices close to the end of trading.

Fears that market prices would be deliberately manipulated had prompted it to introduce a new formula for New Year's Eve whereby a closing share price would be ignored if it had moved by an "exceptional amount" compared with three specific points in the last hour's trading.

The Exchange said movements in the prices of the remaining 89 shares had not been deemed exceptional.

The revisions prompted small adjustment in the value of the FTSE 100 index. However, the Exchange is understood not to be investigating the 30-point fall in the value of the index in the final 10 minutes of trading. The drop is believed to have been caused by a number of index arbitrage deals, involving 100 index stocks, which were carried out by one market-making firm – understood to be Kleinwort Benson.

"We're happy with the trade in the index but then it altered 11 stock prices beyond what we were calling this confidence level," an Exchange spokesman said. "As we stated we would do because of the importance of end-of-year prices, we've reinstated the 11 closing prices."

The end-of-year prices are especially important for fund managers because the performance of their share portfolios – and their fees – can be affected by the slightest changes in the index.

Early morning and late afternoon illiquidity in the new electronic order book is the key force behind the problem of "rogue" share prices. An exceptionally volatile move

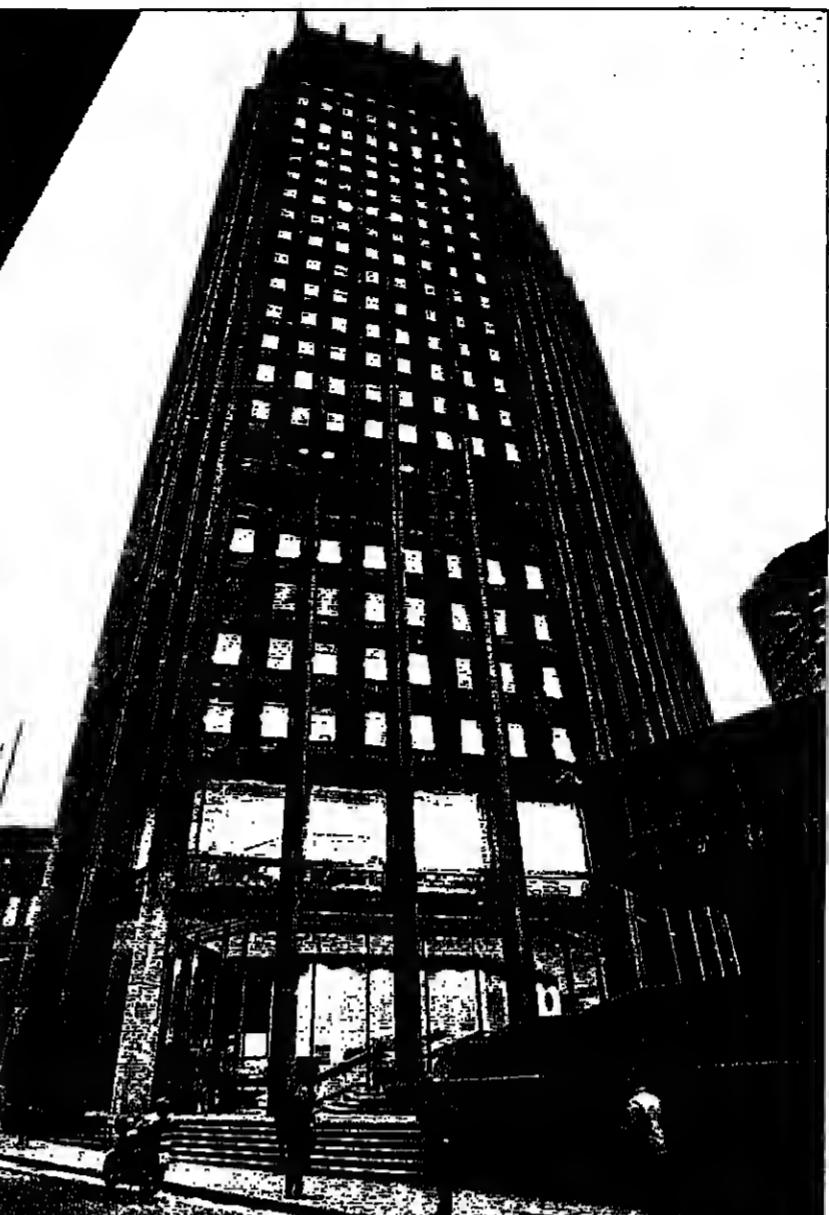
in any stock will result in its closing price being disregarded when the FTSE 100 is calculated. This happened in November when two JP Morgan traders tried to push down the level of the FTSE 100.

The two sold a number of bundles of pharmaceutical stocks in the late afternoon.

The last bundle of stocks they sold was matched with a "buy" order that, because of market illiquidity, was priced substantially lower than might be expected. This pushed down both the closing level of the stocks – SmithKline Beecham and Glaxo Wellcome – as well as the closing level of the FTSE 100. The traders subsequently lost their jobs and earned their employer, JP Morgan, a record £350,000 fine from the Exchange.

Meanwhile, the Stock Exchange said 1997 was a record year with both the value and volume of equity business reaching their highest ever levels both for UK shares and international equities. The number of bargains transacted in UK shares rose 21 per cent to 13.3 million and the value of shares traded rose 36 per cent to £1.008bn. The demutualisation of the Halifax, Woolwich, Alliance & Leicester and Northern Rock building societies and the Norwich Union insurance company created 17 million new shareholders and added roughly 3 per cent to turnover during the year.

The main market welcomed 134 new UK issues and 40 overseas listings but they were cancelled out by mergers and takeovers, and the number of shares listed actually fell from 2,704 to 2,685. In spite of a few casualties the AIM market added 107 new firms, taking the total to more than 300.



New year, new price: The Exchange revised prices for 11 shares. Photograph: PA

OFT links Bauer to Reed sale

Mystery surrounded the future of IPC, the consumer magazine business put up for sale by Reed Elsevier, yesterday when the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) appeared to suggest that Heinrich Bauer, the German publishing group, had won the bidding war.

In a statement which was announced to the Stock Exchange after the market closed, the OFT invited comments on the proposed acquisition of IPC by H Bauer Publishing, Heinrich Bauer's UK subsidiary. The OFT said representations would have to be made by 14 January.

Similar statements from the OFT are a daily routine. However, they are normally only released several days after an acquisition has been officially announced. Reed has yet to make any statement about the deal.

The privately owned German company publishes a wide range of magazines and books across Europe. In the UK, the group is best known for its consumer titles which include *Bella*, *Take a Break*, *That's Life* and *TV Quick*.

Neither Reed Elsevier or Heinrich Bauer could be reached for comment. Earlier, a Reed spokeswoman would only say that the group was hoping to announce the winning bid for IPC "very shortly".

Speculation about the bidding for IPC, which publishes magazines including *Louded*, *Country Life* and *Woman's Own*, has been intense. IPC is understood to have attracted interest from a large number of industry players. But many pulled out when it became clear that Reed wanted a high price for the business. Originally brokers expected IPC, which is forecast to generate sales of £350m this year, to fetch no more than £750m.

Weekend reports suggested CINVEN, the venture capital group, was preparing a management buyout bid worth £900m. Such a deal would be attractive for Reed, because it would not attract scrutiny from the competition authorities as a trade sale might. That would allow Reed, which is currently merging with Dutch publishing giant Wolters Kluwer, to speed up the disposal.

Nevertheless Bertelsmann, the German media giant, and Emmap, the magazine publisher, are still believed to be in the frame. This is the first time, however, that Hamburg-based Heinrich Bauer has been linked with IPC.

– Peter Thal Lorsen

Ladbroke tipped to buy Coral bookmakers from Bass

Ladbroke, the hotels group, yesterday emerged as the favourite to buy the Coral chain of bookmakers from Bass, the brewing to retail giant that is going through a big disposal programme. Confirmation of the deal, which could be worth as much as £500m, is expected in the next few days.

The deal would make Ladbroke a giant in the betting shop industry with a network of more than 2,800 shops, a massive expansion from its current portfolio of 1,925.

The size of the enlarged empire would make a referral to the Monopolies and

Mergers Commission almost inevitable. But industry experts believe Ladbroke could win approval for the deal by selling some of its shops. One potential buyer would be the Tote, which is keen to expand.

Ladbroke would be almost double the size of the William Hill chain, which has 1,530 shops, and would dwarf the remaining rivals – Stanley, which has 567, Tote with 212, Jack Brown with 112, Done Bros' 95 and Coomes' 80. Ladbroke also bought the 114-strong AR Dennis chain of bookmakers for £31.3m last January.

Bass, in effect, put the 930-strong chain up for sale in September, when it lost out in the battle for William Hill, the rival bookmaker. Nomura, the Japanese bank which won the bidding for William Hill, had previously been favourite to buy Coral because of the obvious cost savings of putting the two businesses together.

However, Nomura is understood to have dropped out of the bidding for Coral several weeks ago.

If Coral is sold for 16 times 1997 operating profits – the same multiple as in the

£700m William Hill deal – that would price the business at between £400m and £500m.

Spokesmen for both Bass and Ladbroke declined to comment on the news, saying they never commented on market rumours. Bass shares gained 11.5p to close at 944.5p, while Ladbroke shares eased 2.25p to 264p.

The news comes at the end of a hectic month for Bass. Just a few weeks ago the group sold its Gala bingo business for £279m, disposed of 1,400 pubs for £564m, and launched an £850m share buy-back. Nevertheless, at the time of the announcement

analysts calculated that the company could comfortably spend £1bn on acquisitions.

The Coral sale would take that war chest to at least £1.5bn. Bass, which is chaired by Sir Ian Prosser, is understood to be looking to buy an international hotel chain to increase its presence in Europe or Asia.

Targis could include Granada's Meridien or Saison's InterContinental chain. But analysts have expressed concern that Bass might end up overpaying for any acquisitions, as it has so much cash to spare.

– Peter Thal Lorsen

Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Sterling	1 month	3 month	Dollar	1 month	3 month	DM	1 month	3 month
UK	10,000	10,000	10,000	0.6979	0.6988	0.6906	0.3824	0.3824	0.3824
Australia	2,5343	2,5213	2,5154	1,5348	1,5330	1,5360	1,2842	1,2842	1,2842
Austria	20,793	20,769	20,692	12,642	12,633	12,633	7,0267	7,0267	7,0267
Belgium	6,0101	6,0020	6,0020	3,7080	3,6900	3,6900	2,0646	2,0646	2,0646
Canada	1,2253	1,2253	1,2253	1,2253	1,2253	1,2253	0.8067	0.8067	0.8067
Denmark	1,1223	1,1223	1,1223	0.8423	0.8423	0.8423	0.5067	0.5067	0.5067
ECU	1,4961	1,4919	1,4939	1,0696	1,0700	1,0700	0.8132	0.8132	0.8132
Finland	8,5525	8,5191	8,5031	5,4416	5,4421	5,4420	3,2500	3,2500	3,2500
France	8,5525	8,5191	8,5031	5,4416	5,4421	5,4420	3,2500	3,2500	3,2500
Germany	4,6567	4,6314	4,6243	2,9558	2,9553	2,9553	1,7525	1,7525	1,7525
Hong Kong	12,740	12,737	12,730	7,7550	7,7512	7,7512	4,3122	4,3122	4,3122
Ireland	2,5052	2,5052	2,5052	1,4207	1,4207	1,4207	0.8132	0.8132	0.8132
Italy	2,5052	2,5052	2,5052	1,4207	1,4207	1,4207	0.8132	0.8132	0.8132
Japan	2,1645	2,1335	2,1024	1,2049	1,2050	1,2050	0.8132	0.8132	0.8132
Malta	6,3165	6,3178	6,3184	3,8825	3,8825	3,8825	2,6163	2,6163	2,6163
Netherlands	3,5502	3,5192	3,5076	1,7953	1,7953	1,7953	1,0000	1,0000	1,0000
New Zealand	2,8347	2,8260	2,8154	1,7952	1,7952	1,7952	1,0220	1,0220	1,0220
Norway	1,6175	1,6174	1,6174	1,2648	1,2648	1,2648	0.8132	0.8132	0.8132
Portugal	1,6175	1,6174	1,6174	1,2648	1,2648	1,2648	0.8132	0.8132	0.8132
Spain	1,6175	1,6174	1,6174	1,2648	1,2648	1,2648	0.8132	0.8132	0.8132
Sweden	1,6175	1,6174	1,6174	1,2648	1,2648	1,2648	0.8132	0.8132	0.8132
UK	15,424	15,424	15,424	10,0000	10,0000	10,0000	6,0566	6,0566	6,0566

Interest Rates

Country	3 mth	chrg	1 yr	chrg	2 yr	chrg	3 yr	chrg	10 yr	chrg
UK	4.93	0.45	4.95	0.45	5.00	0.45	5.05	0.45	5.05	0.45
Australia	3.60	0.01	3.67	0.01	4.00	0.01	4.25	0.01	4.25	0.01
Belgium	4.85	0.01	4.92	0.01	5.00	0.01	5.05	0.01	5.05	0.01
Canada	5.50	0.01	5.57	0.01	5.65	0.01	5.70	0.01	5.70	0.01
Denmark	5.50	0.01	5.57	0.01	5.65	0.01	5.70	0.01	5.70	0.01
ECU	4.93	0.01	5.00	0.01	5.05	0.01	5.10	0.01	5.10	

21/BUSINESS OUTLOOK

THE INDEPENDENT
THURSDAY 1 JANUARY 1998
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BANKING

Established banks must adapt, merge or die

Consolidation, both on a national and cross-border basis, will again be the dominant theme of the year for the financial services industry. Information technology and the coming of the single European currency promise a new age of low-cost banking and other forms of financial service as national frontiers and other barriers to entry break down.

For most established banks and savings organisations it is a question of "adapt and compete, merge, or die".

The merger wave which swept through investment banking towards the end of last year looks set to continue well into the new year. The ones to watch are second-tier continental banks with global ambitions. Commerzbank and Banca, for example.

For the likes of Commerzbank, options include a link-up with a US firm looking for a European leg, such as Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette, or perhaps a deal with a continental rival.

A Commerzbank/Deutsche Bank merger perhaps? Unlikely, say the analysts, but stranger things have happened. Neither is it necessarily the end of the action at the banks that grabbed the headlines in 1997. UBS and SBC remain relatively weak in the US, and 1998 could see the two Swiss banking giants hitting the acquisition trail again.

The demise of the medium sized, independent British investment bank is another feature of 1997 set to re-emerge in 1998. Schroders, Robert Fleming, Rothschilds and Lazard will all be under the spotlight.

Look out for a raft of disappointing financial results as banks own up to having had their fingers burned by equity derivatives in last autumn's volatile markets. JP Morgan and Chase Manhattan are among the few to admit to being caught out by recent gyrations of the financial markets. More are bound to follow suit in the first

— Lea Paterson



Facing a year of change: Barclays' chief executive, Martin Taylor, might have a role in a merger story

UTILITIES

Regulatory review may prove damp squib

The big event of the year for utilities should be New Labour's promised reform of the way electricity and water companies are regulated. In the end, however, this may prove something of a damp squib.

While in opposition Labour made political capital out of the apparently excessive profits of the privatised utilities and promised to do something about them once returned to office. The review of regulation launched by Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, emerges around February.

The more radical ideas canvassed before the election, such as profit-sharing to cream off annual excess earnings, have almost certainly been ditched. But other initiatives promise to herald a limited shake-up of the system inherited from the Tories.

If gas was rarely out of the headlines in 1997, with the landmark British Gas demerger vying for space with price cuts, meanwhile Offer will give the first word on the size of price cuts to be levied on the RECs' distribution businesses in 2000, with a big one-off plunge in revenues a near certainty. And by the autumn, Ian Byatt, the water regulator, will have decided on the size of the price reduction for water companies in 2000. Shareholders have been warned.

— Chris Godsmark

electricity promises to dominate in 1998. By the end of January Professor Littlechild will almost certainly have announced a delay to the start of domestic competition.

A six month postponement from April to September looks increasingly likely. Tony Boorman, head of competition at Offer, says: "People have always understood that there were risks with the time-scale... The official line is that April looks very difficult."

Meanwhile Offer will give the first word on the size of price cuts to be levied on the RECs' distribution businesses in 2000, with a big one-off plunge in revenues a near certainty. And by the autumn, Ian Byatt, the water regulator, will have decided on the size of the price reduction for water companies in 2000. Shareholders have been warned.

— Chris Godsmark

RETAIL

BIOTECH

Stores face a year of belt tightening

There is little doubt that 1998 will be a tougher year on the high street. After last year's benign conditions, with consumer spending boosted by building society windfalls, rising house prices and low interest rates, retailers will be looking ahead with some trepidation.

The "big boys" have been either spent or saved. Interest rate rises are starting to bite and the engine of house price rises looks to have run out of steam.

The evidence of a slowdown is with us already. November sales were sluggish and Christmas trading has been patchy, with profits warnings from Oasis, the fashion retailer, and Mulberry, the luxury goods group. The opening of two big shopping centres at Cribbs Causeway near Bristol and Trafford Park in Manchester will add further capacity to the sector at the wrong point in the cycle.

Another trend will be the urge to demerge. Sears will spin off Selfridges, WH Smith will demerge Waterstone's and the Debenhams demerger from Burton will be finalised later this month. The Jaeger and Viyella retail businesses are also in the process of being demerged from Coats Viyella. This may raise the possibility of corporate activity, particularly in department stores.

The World Cup in France in June should provide a boost from sports retailers. The planned flotation of Sports Division could spark a battle royal with JJB sports.

Technology will also make its mark on the sector this year with the launch of digital television. Expect great fanfare but a slow start to consumer buying.

And finally, the new issues market will be interesting, given the sector's recent wobbles. Monsoon, the women's fashion retailer, will provide the first test.

— Nigel Cope

Deals with big drugs players will be the key

Investors in biotech companies will be looking forward to a strong recovery after 1997, which was certainly a year to forget. Strangely, this contrasted sharply with the performance of the big pharmaceutical stocks, most of which advanced strongly in the hope of more consolidation.

British Biotech, Celltech and Scotia all reported setbacks for some of their most important products, and Biocompagnies fell from grace after failing to secure its relationship with Johnson & Johnson of the US. Perhaps fittingly, the year ended with the departure of David Horrobin, chief executive of Scotia and one of the industry's most colourful characters, whose failure in commercialising the group's science forced him out of Scotia and back into the laboratory.

for instance, believes that future growth will come as much from this area as any other.

More deals might also encourage investors to return to the sector after the hammering many of the biotech tools in 1997. That, in turn, would spark another wave of flotation — and there are plenty waiting in the wings — which would have the salutary effect of broadening investor choice.

It is also worth noting that biotech and pharmaceutical stocks are not sensitive to troubles in Asia or slowing economic growth at home.

But then, as 1997 has more than amply demonstrated, biotech is a sector for those with deep pockets and a long-term vision, not the short-term horizons more normally associated with quoted stock markets.

— Sameena Ahmed

TRANSPORT

Prescott to set pace for rail and bus firms

The most important event of the year for Britain's road, rail, air and sea industries will be the publication in May by John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, of the Government's integrated transport policy.

The accompanying white paper will almost certainly herald new measures aimed at curbing car use, such as road pricing and heavier taxation of company car perks like free parking. The moves could benefit the expanding bus and train transport groups such as Stagecoach, FirstBus, National Express Group and Go-Ahead.

However, the flip side for businesses such as these could be much tighter regulation of their bus and rail activities.

The Government has already hinted that it would like to bring the train leasing compa-

nies such as Porterbrook under the umbrella of the existing rail regulatory framework. There is also the possibility of the bus industry outside London being brought under direct regulation.

Another issue likely to be on the agenda is the ownership of London Underground, which Railtrack would very much like to get its hands on.

The big City event of the year will be the flotation of London and Continental Railways, the consortium selected to build and operate the high-speed Channel Tunnel rail link. LCR is seeking to raise £5.4bn, of which £1bn-£1.5bn will be through an equity issue around the middle of the year. Given the experience of the tunnel itself — two years late and 100 per cent over budget — it will not

ACCOUNTANTS

Big Six imitate their clients in the urge to merge

In going for mega-mergers, the four Big Six accounting and consulting firms in the throes of marriage preparations are jumping on a bandwagon that has already rolled through banking and other sectors. As with these other industries, the drivers are said to be the general globalisation of business and the need to achieve economies of scale, especially when investing in emerging markets.

Andersen and Deloitte & Touche, the two Big Six firms not so far involved in merger talks, are confident of picking up clients and staff from rivals attempting to merge. Firms in the so-called second tier and beyond are also likely to continue to consolidate in the hope of being better able to compete for some of the scraps left over from the Big Six's gnawings.

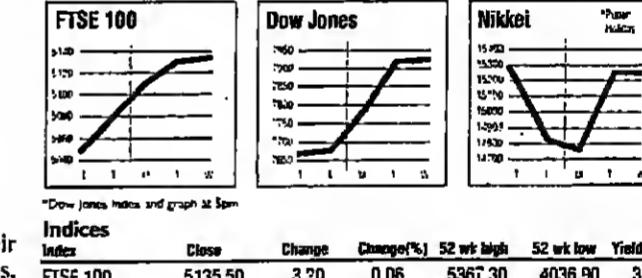
Running parallel with the urge to merge is the urge to break up. The Andersen organisation — despite continuing to grow at close on 20 per cent a year — spent much of 1997 trying to resolve the bitter row between its core accounting arm, Arthur Andersen, and Andersen Consulting, the specialist consulting business particularly known for big IT projects that was set up in 1989.

The dispute centres on the consulting arm's claim that the other business has been competing in its area of business despite receiving a £100m-a-year subsidy from its sister operation. Just before Christmas, the AC partners stunned their colleagues in the rest of the business by calling for an arbitrator to settle the issue.

All eyes will be on how successful the big players are in persuading regulators in the US, Europe and Japan that their merger plans will not act against the public interest. As Nick Land, UK senior partner of Ernst & Young, points out, this is not an all-or-nothing situation.

Even if the mergers are not waved through, the accountancy world will not look the same at the end of 1998 as it does today.

STOCK MARKETS



FTSE 100 Dow Jones Nikkei

Indices Jan Feb Mar Apr May June July Aug Sept Oct Nov Dec

Close Change Change(%) 52 wk high 52 wk low Yield(%)

FTSE 100 5135.50 3.20 0.06 5367.30 4036.90 3.38

FTSE 250 4787.60 19.50 0.41 4963.80 4384.20 3.35

FTSE 350 2469.70 3.20 0.13 2570.50 2013.40 3.44

FTSE All Share 2411.00 3.26 0.14 2507.68 1989.78 3.38

FTSE SmallCap 2313.30 5.90 0.26 2407.40 2176.70 3.45

FTSE Flotline 1262.70 3.30 0.26 1346.50 1222.50 3.38

FTSE AIM 992.00 2.10 0.21 1138.00 965.90 1.17

Dow Jones 1526.93 10.21 0.73 1829.03 6355.31 1.73

Nikkei 1525.74 10.73 0.71 20910.79 14386.21 1.02

Hong Kong 10122.16 -36.45 -0.30 16820.31 8713.88 3.96

Dax 4249.69 52.32 1.25 4459.69 2833.78 3.88

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Amvescap steps into the limelight to end the year on a high

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

Amvescap, the least known Footsie constituent, was one blue chip to end 1997 at a peak. Ignoring the kerfuffle in the final 10 minutes of trading the shares rose 16p to 523p, a far cry from the 207.5p seen in January.

The investment group, with a £3bn capitalisation, emerged from the shrouds of obscurity last month when, to the surprise of many, it made its way into the exclusive Footsie index, covering the nation's top 100 companies.

Humiliatingly, no less than 11 shares were adjusted; most of the changes went into double figures with General Accident (40p) the only price cut. Halifax was lifted by 28p and Sun Life & Provincial by 30p.

Despite its elevation it is unknown to many investors. Perhaps that is not surprising as it derives around 90 per cent of its income from the US and is based in Atlanta. It has adopted a low profile here.

The group was formed when Invesco, a British investment operation, acquired AIM Management, a US

group. The two became Amvescap in March.

As usual in the shortened New Year's Eve session trading was thin; volume was 216.5 million shares. In early trading Footsie was up 50 points and stood 33.3 higher at midday. Ten minutes later, when the stock market closed, the calculation showed a mere 1.5 gain. It was then adjusted to a 3.2 plus after the Stock Exchange had examined the final ten minutes of trading to root out rogue trades.

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TAKING STOCK

Television producer Mike Mansfield has reduced his stake in showbiz group Galaxy Media, selling 30,000 shares at 110p against an unchanged 120p price on the backwater Seats market. He still has 13.63 per cent. Six months ago the shares hit a 200p peak.

Retailers scored some gains as the sales continued to pull in customers. Kingfisher put on 15p at 848p.

As the Stock Exchange suffered order-driven discomfort from tiny rival, Tradepoint, had the misfortune to encounter old-fashioned market pressure, falling 10p to 51.5p, a low. When order-driven trading was enjoying the benefits of a cash injection the shares touched 148.5p.

The latest demerger, splitting the car dealership from Culver saw the resultant Wydham Motor Group trade at 113.5p with Culver, now concentrating on financial services, at 35.5p, an effective

7.55p gain. Inspac, a chemical group, held at 23.5p. Analyst Philip Morris at Nikko has lifted his estimates and sees profits increasing from £32m to £35.5m this year. He rates the shares a buy.

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New Year's Eve's closing

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recalculations as suspicious.

And it does not intend to

conduct any investigation. The

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Close attention was paid to

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of the last order-book trade

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shares. It was completely out

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Halifax was hit by two late

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23/SPORT

Sport in '98: the highlights and the lowdowns

Hoddle: Cabbages or coronation lie in wait

FOOTBALL
BY GLENN MOORE

The summer of 1998 promises to be a bumper one for offices, take-away restaurants, Relate and divorce lawyers. Yes, it's World Cup year.

Paris may be lovely in the spring but the footballers of 32 countries are more interested in being there in July this year as the World Cup returns to France for the first time in 60 years.

In the 33 days from 10 June, when Brazil open the tournament against Scotland at St-Denis, to the 17 July final in the same north Parisian suburb, 64 matches will be played. The global television audience will break all records, new reputations will be forged and old ones broken. By the end of it Glenn Hoddle could be either destined to join Sir Alf Ramsey as a footballing knight or Graham Taylor in the vegetable patch. Either way he and his team will dominate the tabloid front pages.

The Football Association, and the French organisers, will be praying he will not be sharing them with England's fans. One hopes, for all Hoddle's faith, that they will be making more secure preparation as well. Unfortunately nothing short of the long-overdue government confiscation of passports from known offenders is likely to ensure a trouble-free tournament. This is unlikely, but should be remembered when the scapegoating starts.

There may be a dry-run for the security forces in Paris on 13 May, but Aston Villa's chances of progressing through a strong field to the Uefa Cup final seem slimmer than Chelsea's prospects of reaching the previous week's European Cup-Winners' Cup final in Stockholm.

Overloaded structure could mean heavy fall-out

RUGBY UNION
BY CHRIS HEWITT

Unless someone comes up with a solid solution pretty damned quickly, English rugby will find itself bent grotesquely out of shape this year. The burning issue of the day, a veritable Millennium Dome of a problem, is the search for the structured season – or, in layman's terms, the attempt to give the Premiership clubs a competitive home game once a fortnight while accommodating something like 15 international and European Cup weekends.

It would be easier to land a man on Mars or discover the meaning of life. Five pre-Christmas England Tests, four Five Nations' weekends, a maximum of nine Heineken Cup contests, a minimum of 22 Allied Dunbar matches and up to five Tetley's Bitter Cup ties add up to 45 Saturdays and with a six-week tramp around Australia, New Zealand and South Africa already pencilled in for

the summer recess, the leading players will be lucky to spend Christmas Day at home.

Something has to give, but what? The stage is set for a three-way verbal punch-up between the Rugby Football Union, the English Rugby Partnership and European Rugby Cup Ltd. While a nation may be at the prospect, failure to reach agreement over the next four weeks could lead to renewed threats of a breakaway by the clubs. For what it's worth, this correspondent believes the Heineken pool matches should be played in midweek over a three-month period. Not only would it free up weekends for the Premiership, but provide more top-level opportunities for bright young English talent.

Increased credibility will depend on 'genuine Tests'

RUGBY LEAGUE
BY DAVE HADFIELD

Predicting how the new year will treat the game is akin to predicting which way a dropped slice of toast will fall. The instinctive fear of its followers is that it will be hattered side down, but recent events on the other side of the world mean it does not have to be that way.

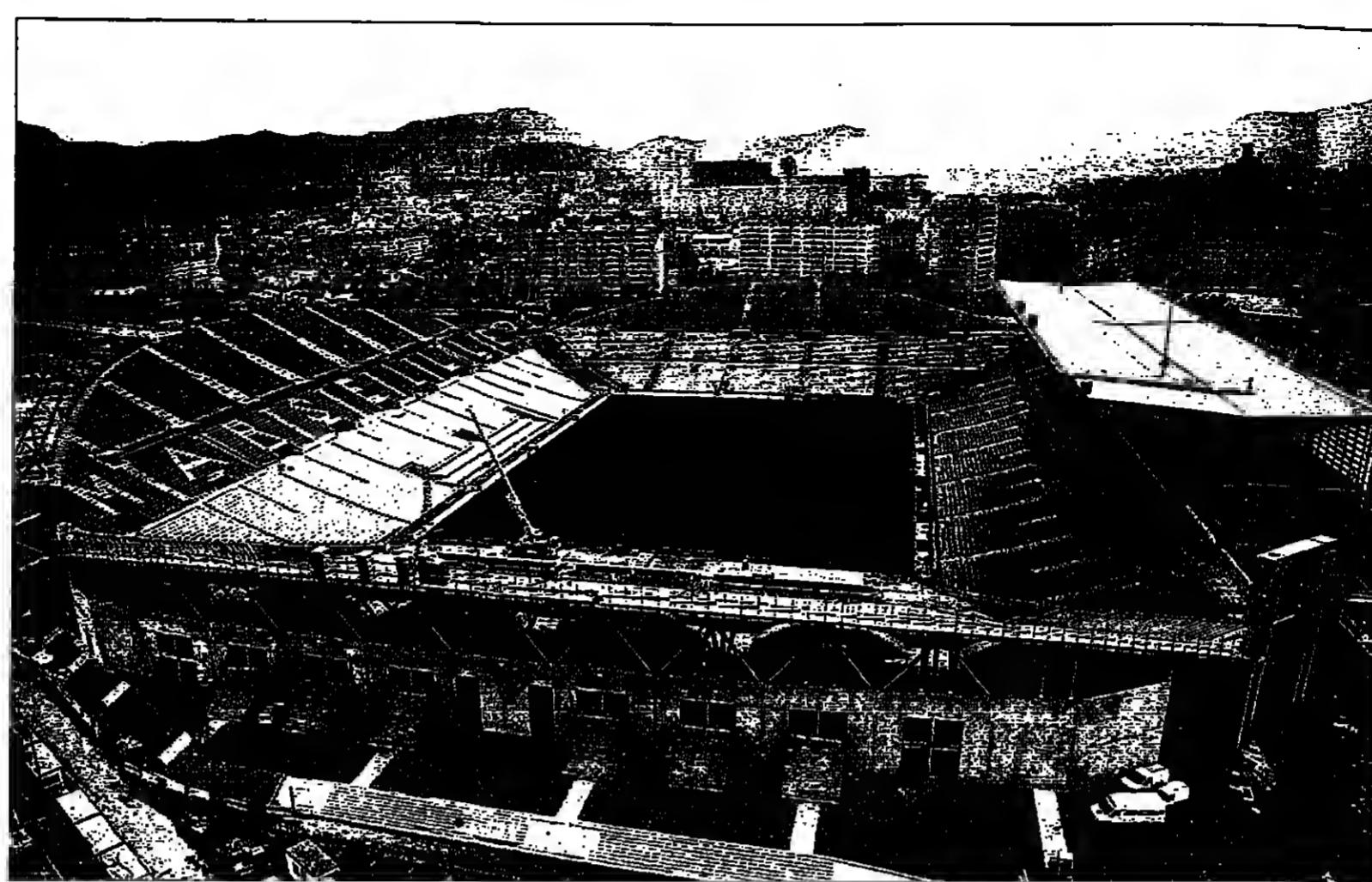
The re-unification of the game in Australia offers the opportunity to rebuild international credibility. Genuine Tests against Britain should return next autumn, preceded by a "home international" series in the summer.

The World Cup will, in all

probability, have to wait for a year, but there is a chance to sort out the international calendar and turn it into the shop window for the code that it should be.

On the domestic front, there is much that is unfathomable. Super League gave itself three years to prove its worth. This is its third – and that should focus minds wonderfully.

Any major boost in attendances seems unlikely and the



England begin their World Cup campaign against Tunisia on 15 June at Marseilles' renovated Stade Vélodrome

Photograph: AP

Captain courageous Atherton has the experience and talent to prove his critics wrong

Whatever else happens, 1998 will settle the arguments over Michael Atherton's position in the pecking order of England captains. He can be acknowledged already as one of the most stubborn and thick-skinned; the coming months will determine whether he is remembered for more.

By common consent, the West Indies are in disarray, to such an extent that England can look upon the tour that opens their year as their best chance since Colin Cowdrey's tourists

CRICKET
BY JON CULLEY

won 1-0 in 1968 of coming back from the Caribbean victorious, as the persuasive voices who talked Atherton down from the brink of resignation last August will have pointed out.

Significantly, Atherton goes with a team that truly can be called his own. Nine of those travelling were with him on his first venture to the West Indies

four years ago, when he declared that he would pick young players and back them all the way. That policy has been blown off course a few times in the interim but here is a belated opportunity for those in whom he showed faith – Hussain, Ramprakash, Caddick and Tufnell principal among them – to prove his judgment correct. Should they succeed, so will have Atherton.

Naturally, the outcome of the five-Test series will colour the mood of next summer, when England play South Africa in five Tests and Sri Lanka in one. In some ways, unless the signals prove to have been misleading, the South Africans represent a more potent challenge than the West Indies to the theory that England are on an upward curve. If Atherton comes home triumphant in April, his reputation could be in ruins again by August and Allan Donald, rather than Brian Lara, might be the man who decides his place in history. Alternatively, Donald

may teach Adam Hollioake that a hard road lies ahead.

For Atherton, much depends on whether they can replace the injured Darren Gough adequately, and whether his supporting cast can overcome the one area of experience in which they are lacking: that of beating decent opposition. But my hunch is that he made the right decision to stay on.

Prediction: Vindication rather than vilification for Atherton; and at home a Nottinghamshire revival.

On the events front, the Cheltenham Festival will once again be the most expensive mail in the calendar. The Prestbury Park executive will almost certainly have to follow the leads of Royal Ascot and Kempton's King George VI Chase meeting and bring down the crowd limit.

On the Flat, the contest will be to keep Britain's premier prizes at home. France's Xaar could be the new superstar, with options primarily in the 2,000 Guineas, but also a consideration in the Derby.

Schumacher to make amends with honour

MOTOR RACING
BY DERICK ALLSOP

Every year Formula One heralds a new season destined to be different and better. This time it really could be. Possibly.

New regulations give us narrower cars and grooved tyres, which will reduce lap times by around four seconds and, the authorities maintain, make racing safer. They hope also that the racing may prove more entertaining.

The drivers are doubtful that will be the case. After early winter testing the general view appears to be that, even if there initial acclimatisation skirmishes, overtaking will continue to be difficult because of the turbulence encountered as one car closes in on another.

In theory, radical changes to the rules should provide a level playing field. In reality, the teams with the expertise and resources are bound to be out in front again. If anything, the smaller teams may lose much of the ground they have clawed back in recent seasons.

The focus of most attention will be Ferrari, expected as they are to at last reach out for the world championship. Michael Schumacher, following his ignominious final act in 1997, has predicted success this time – and he does not make such predictions lightly.

It would, however, be foolhardy to suggest the champion Williams, might be more vulnerable. They still have Renault engines by another name, McLaren, and their driver department should be stronger now that Heinz-Harald Frentzen has had a year's experience with the team and Jacques Villeneuve.

McLaren Mercedes could be dark horses, especially as they have gambled on adding Bridgestone Tyres to their improving package. Mika Hakkinen finished last season strongly and David Coulthard is intent on launching a championship bid.

Prediction: Schumacher to show that he is the best – fair and square.

Rusedski and Henman expected to improve even further

TENNIS
BY JOHN ROBERTS

The emergence of Rusedski and Henman has emboldened the British game to risk a new men's indoor tournament, the \$81,500 (£54,000) Guardian Direct Cup, to be staged in a temporary stadium in Battersea Park from 23 February in March.

Newcastle Arena is the venue in April when Rusedski and Henman lead the Britain's quest for a return to the Davis Cup World Group. Seeded and given a bye in the first round, Britain will play Ukraine or

Denmark in the second round of the Euro-African Zone. If successful, Britain will qualify for a play off for a place in the 16-strong World Group in July.

Steffi Graf's career remains in limbo six months after surgery to her left knee. If and when the 28-year-old former world No 1 resumes playing, it will be interesting to see how well she responds to a new generation led by Martina Hingis, winner of three Grand Slams last year.

Prediction: Rusedski to win Wimbledon.

Rankings becoming a moot point

GOLF
BY ANDY FARRELL

Golf will go on in much the same way in 1998. Tiger Woods will win the Masters. Colin Montgomerie will challenge at the US Open. The Open will be unpredictable but memorable, while the USPGA, after a year at a quality venue like Winged Foot, goes back to looking more like a regular tour event.

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If the Sohlein Cup, which

takes place at Jack Nicklaus's Muirfield Village in September, were between the LPGA and the WPGE tour, it would be even less of a contest than the match in 1995, which the Americans won 17-11. With the LPGA and world No 1 Annika Sorenstam, the LPGA's rookie of the year Lisa Hackney and US Women's Open champion Alison Nicholas, as well as Laura Davies et al, surely Europe can make a better fist of it this time.

Prediction: Majors for Montgomerie and Westwood, but not necessarily in that order.

A total of 15 world records were set in 1997, and there is every reason to suppose there will be a similar impact on the lists this season.

The fact that there is no global competition – this is the year of the European Championships and the Commonwealth Games – is not relevant in terms of world records, as none of those set in 1997 occurred at a major championship.

The major advances occurred in the men's middle-distance events, where Kenya ended the season as the dominant nation. They look capable of huge returns at the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur in September, but on the grand prix circuit they will be challenged by the Ethiopians who held the world marks for both the 5,000 and 10,000 metres until two of the Kenyans, Daniel Komen and Paul Tergat, excelled themselves in Brussels on 22 August.

After he had set his world 10,000 mark in Oslo, Haile Gebrsellasie vowed that, if anyone broke it, he would simply go one better. This season will see if he can live up to his promise.

For Britain's athletes, 1998

will be a watershed year. The British Athletic Federation is in receivership, Linford Christie, Sally Gunnell and Tessa Sanderson have departed the scene, and the sport is facing a crisis of confidence. But the performers are there to pull things round: Denise Lewis, Kelly Holmes, who can sweep all before her this year if she stays fit, a revitalised Colin Jackson, the new world junior 100m record holder Dwain Chambers, Jonathan Edwards and Steve Backley.

The most fascinating domestic struggle will be in the 400 metres, where the relative new boys – the British record holder Iwan Thomas, Jamie Baulch and Mark Richardson – will be contesting the European and Commonwealth titles with the relative old boy, Roger Black, who has the capacity to end his career on a high note if he can recapture the fitness and mental sharpness of 1996.

So Britain, which took an Olympic silver through Torvill and Dean's brief return to competition at the 1994 Games, has only one figure skater – Steven Cousins in the men's singles.

There are, however, three good medal prospects – in the four-man bobs, the men's curling and speed skating, where Nicky Gooch will seek to match the bronze he won in Hamar in 1994.

Infamous shadow of Tyson looms over the ring

BOXING
BY KEN JONES

Nothing tells us more about the state of professional boxing and, if you like, human nature than expectations raised by the probability of Mike Tyson's release from indefinite suspension when it is reviewed in June by the Nevada State Athletic Commission.

The sensational story of Tyson's decline and fall did not end when he was disqualified and thrown out of boxing for feeding on Evander Holyfield's rat ear six months ago in Las Vegas. It will continue with Tyson's return to the ring in

enough of a fight against Kevin Kelley in New York recently to realise that he should spend more time listening than the loud hailer. One name leads to another for Hamed, but before he has been fed an opponent good enough to keep him entertained while enriching his curriculum.

When Joe Calzaghe out-pointed Chris Eubank for the vacant World Boxing Organisation super-middleweight championship, there was plenty to suggest that 1998 will see him make important advances.

OLYMPICS
BY MIKE ROWBOTTOM

newing his Olympic challenge on the ski slopes – 10 years after he won gold in the slalom and giant slalom. Alberto Tomba of Italy will be seeking a last hurrah.

The British Olympic Association is sending a team of only 30, in accordance with their ruling in the light Britain's performance at the 1996 summer Games: all competitors have to be capable of a top-half finish.

Another great one will be re-

questing results, as my mother and loyal followers (one and the same) will vouch, is a tricky business in racing. Predicting squabbles within the sport less taxing. The end-of-term lament about prize money on the Turf will continue during 1998, but the horns will remain locked.

Government must find it hard to shed tears over the money-hoarding owners seeking increased returns. The bookmakers, meanwhile, have now tightened their hands around the throat so much that the golden goose has passed out. Sheikh Mohammed and his brothers, though, are more likely to withdraw from the sport than the munificent boys with the corporate satchels are prepared to pay their way.

The proposed takeover of Coral by Ladbrokes further darkens the sport's future, while the real losers remain the real workers, the stable staff who could probably improve take-home pay if they became paupers.

On the events front, the Cheltenham Festival will once again be the most expensive mail in the calendar. The Prestbury Park executive will almost certainly have to follow the leads of Royal Ascot and Kempton's King George VI Chase meeting and bring down the crowd limit.

On the Flat, the contest will be to keep Britain's premier prizes at home. France's Xaar could be the new superstar, with options primarily in the 2,000 Guineas, but also a consideration in the Derby.

RUGBY UNION

Keast furious with Quins' 'arrogance'

David Lewellyn
Harlequins 38
Bristol 40

Aidy Keast was fulminating after watching the humbling of his Harlequins side against the Allied Dunbar Premiership's stragglers, Bristol. For 20 minutes Quins ruled the roost. Then they lost it.

"I'm furious," Keast said. "That was a dreadful, frustrating performance. There was a certain amount of arrogance shown by the players after 20 minutes. If I had been given appearance money today I would not be putting it in my pocket."

"The players showed a lack of humility. They thought they were world-beaters, that they could do it in their own individual way, but this is a team game. Even when I sent on Thierry Lacroix, the rest of the guys just panicked."

ominously he added: "This is professional rugby. This is not a fun playground. We are here to win and be the elite. If players do not come up to that they will be put on the transfer list."

Just four days ago, Bristol were on the end of a 50-point hiding. Yesterday they recorded their highest league score in two years, despite slipping 21-3 behind after 12 minutes. A thrilling match had the 5,124 supporters on tenterhooks until the fourth minute of stoppage time.

Quins' right wing Rob Liley fluffed a conversion of his side's

sixth try, which would have levelled the match. Keast admitted he was surprised that Liley, who had begun the match as main goal-kicker, did not let Lacroix have a pot from nut on the left.

Harlequins have been hit hard by injuries, particularly up front (but they also rested a few players, too). Understandably, Bristol targeted the forwards. They dominated the set scrums, held their own at the line-outs and, inspired by the former French international lock Thierry Divergier, drove at the heart of the Quins' defence and scattered them in the fur winds.

For all that, Bristol managed to concede some soft tries, which their coach, Alan Davies, admitted did not please him. "I did go berserk at the way we conceded all those tries," he said, "and the nature of our half-time chat centred around the pride we feel for the club."

"We are desperate to win and this victory will have a phenomenal impact on and off the field."

First, though, Bristol had to endure the sight of Harlequins romping in at will, Jason Keyter, Liley and the fly-half, Paul Challinor, all touching down and Liley doing the honours with the conversions.

It was looking grim for the Premiership's whipping boys, who had lost seven of their previous eight Premiership matches. Harlequins were running riot. But they were also getting rotted.

And Bristol had Paul Burke.



The Harlequins winger Dan Luger occupies most of the Bristol defence but his side slumped to defeat at The Stoop yesterday

Photograph: Peter Jay

The Ireland international's accurate kicking kept Bristol in touch whenever Harlequins threatened to break away. The ball travelling through at least a dozen pairs of hands and a couple of efficient rucks on its way, Burke's cool conversion nosed them in front right on half-time.

Burke had a hand in Jim Brownrigg's 44th-minute try. Having realised that Quins

were not on the pace, they struck again with a fine try by the full-back Rob Liley. The ball travelling through at least a dozen pairs of hands and a couple of efficient rucks on its way, Burke's cool conversion nosed them in front right on half-time.

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Turnpole weighted to turn on the style

Hong Kong is not the only place to be suffering from a mysterious animal virus. Racehorses have been afflicted by an untraceable bug in recent weeks and punters are beginning to catch a cold from it.

Richard Edmundson reports

When news swept through the animal kingdom recently that there was to be an extensive slaughter to rid mankind of a mystery disease Britain's racehorses must have been getting rather nervous in their boxes.

For while Hong Kong has been wrestling with the deadly chicken flu of the H5N1 virus, jump racing too has been visited by a virulent germ, one that no-one seems able to identify, let alone eradicate.

The two most high-profile

horses believed to have been victims of this winter's spreading bacteria are the greys One Man and Suny Bay. Both ran deplorably in the King George VI Chase at Kempton on Boxing Day at a time when their stablemates were also exhibiting symptoms of being in the thrall of sickness.

The fortunes of the Upper

Lamhoun trainer Charlie Brooks were typical. Uplands did not send out a runner for 14 days until recently following a depressing recurring theme when runners were sent to the racecourse, apparently in rude health, only to run stinkers. It is a similar story at the Lockerbie yard of the much vaunted Sparky Gayle, who ran so badly at Wetherby last week. There are no colds or runny noses in Colin Parker's stable, and no rummy runs at the race track either, rather ones that are walking over the finishing line.

The results were immediately staggering, even if the

RICHARD EDMONDSON
NAP: Turnpole
(Chesterham 2.45)
NB: Court Melody
(Chesterham 2.10)

trainer himself cannot explain how disease either arrived at or departed his premises. Grange Hill has the sort of gadgetry of which both "Q" and Houston would be envious, but not a single microscope showed up on the medical charts. "We've got a resident vet and all the equipment here," Twiston-Davies said yesterday. "We tested everything

The glimmer of optimism is

Richard Dunwoody last night emerged as front runner to take over the ride on Ladbrooke favourite Commanche Court from Norman Williamson, who picked up a bat at Warwick yesterday. Dunwoody is trainer Ted Walsh's first choice to be offered the mount, provided Williamson decides not to lodge an appeal against his Warwick suspension.

Williamson was stood down for three days for careless riding on Avanti Express, who had finished first past the post

Ladbrokes aiming to buy

Coral, business: page 19

Dunwoody may ride Court

in the Bob Cratchit Novice Chase only to be demoted to second at a subsequent inquiry for interfering with Melstock Meggie.

Williamson declined to comment on the ban which covers 9, 10 & 12 January – the middle day ruling him out of the Leopardstown fixture. But he phoned Walsh to break the news. Walsh said: "The race is 10 days away and I'm sure that will be riders available."

Ladbrokes aiming to buy

Coral, business: page 19

CATTERICK

HYPERION

12.50 Key Grip 1.20 Panoramic Lord 1.55 Prime Example 2.25 Quick March 2.55 Dual Image 3.25 Fen Terrier

GOING: Good to Soft (Good in places). ● Left-hand course, undulating and sharp. Not suitable for long-striding horses. Run-in 200yds.

● Course 2 m NC. 1st 1/2 mile 10.5m, 2nd 1/2 mile 10.5m, 3rd 1/2 mile 10.5m, 4th 1/2 mile 10.5m, 5th 1/2 mile 10.5m, 6th 1/2 mile 10.5m, 7th 1/2 mile 10.5m, 8th 1/2 mile 10.5m, 9th 1/2 mile 10.5m, 10th 1/2 mile 10.5m, 11th 1/2 mile 10.5m, 12th 1/2 mile 10.5m, 13th 1/2 mile 10.5m, 14th 1/2 mile 10.5m, 15th 1/2 mile 10.5m, 16th 1/2 mile 10.5m, 17th 1/2 mile 10.5m, 18th 1/2 mile 10.5m, 19th 1/2 mile 10.5m, 20th 1/2 mile 10.5m, 21st 1/2 mile 10.5m, 22nd 1/2 mile 10.5m, 23rd 1/2 mile 10.5m, 24th 1/2 mile 10.5m, 25th 1/2 mile 10.5m, 26th 1/2 mile 10.5m, 27th 1/2 mile 10.5m, 28th 1/2 mile 10.5m, 29th 1/2 mile 10.5m, 30th 1/2 mile 10.5m, 31st 1/2 mile 10.5m, 32nd 1/2 mile 10.5m, 33rd 1/2 mile 10.5m, 34th 1/2 mile 10.5m, 35th 1/2 mile 10.5m, 36th 1/2 mile 10.5m, 37th 1/2 mile 10.5m, 38th 1/2 mile 10.5m, 39th 1/2 mile 10.5m, 40th 1/2 mile 10.5m, 41st 1/2 mile 10.5m, 42nd 1/2 mile 10.5m, 43rd 1/2 mile 10.5m, 44th 1/2 mile 10.5m, 45th 1/2 mile 10.5m, 46th 1/2 mile 10.5m, 47th 1/2 mile 10.5m, 48th 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Where is the evidence to suggest that England's flagship tournament is unmatched for quality?

A traditional cop out for sports columnists at this time of the year is to look back on the events of recent history. There are various ways of addressing an absolutely dependable chore but none of them appeal to me personally.

Presuming it be still of sound mind, I flinch from attempting to appear witty or wise on the perch provided by this newspaper.

You see, the trouble for people of my age is that something happens to the eyesight, as you get older, which opticians may know about but never mention. We may see clearly enough but the images become subject to preference and upbringing.

Opinion fosters a generational conflict but all sports watchers should consider the possibility that they are

seeing what they want to see rather than what is actually happening.

The year we have stepped from provided plenty of opportunities, accepted gleefully by newspapers and broadcasting networks, for leaping in with subjective judgements that proved, and could prove, embarrassing in retrospect.

A claim advanced for the Premier League last year is a good example of what I am going on about. My eyes may be up to their tricks again but where is the evidence to suggest that England's flagship tournament is unmatched for quality? Despite the incessant trumpeting of its paymasters, Sky television, what are we really looking at? Excitement certainly and gifted individuals who set the pulse

racing. But for most teams beneath Manchester United the object is to secure status through effort and determination. English football's pseudo-intellectuals are unlikely to agree but the levelling off is downwards not upwards.

Hartmut Scherzer is a German sportswriter. A friend, I encounter him regularly at the big fights, World Cups, Olympic Games, international sweat festivals of every kind. Last Monday he came over with two colleagues to watch Jürgen Klinsmann reappear in the colours of Tottenham Hotspur against Arsenal. To their minds it was a pretty awful match in which only Dennis Bergkamp, David Ginola and Klinsmann looked like proper footballers.



KEN JONES

As a Christmas treat, one of Scherzer's colleagues brought along his 12-year-old son. Afterwards, turning to his father, the boy asked: "Why don't they play football in England?" It's a question Alan Sugar and his cohorts might like to think about.

Watching Tiger Woods lay waste to Augusta National in last year's Masters, even people who should have known better leaped immediately to the conclusion that he was sure to surpass Jack Nicklaus's record of 19 major championships to become the greatest golfer in history. So much money poured in on the possibility of Woods winning the Grand Slam that the odds became ridiculous. Did Woods win the Masters because he struck peak form on a course set up perfectly for his unquestionable talent? We shall see but his subsequent failures in the US Open, The Open, the US PGA championship and the Ryder Cup left plenty of people dangling in the trap of instant conclusion.

Perhaps it was my eyes playing up

again but I could have sworn that Brazil were seldom flat out when inflicting England's only defeat in the Tournoi de France last summer. Maybe England, in a World Cup year, will be up to the standard Glenn Hoddle and many of his compatriots imagine but experience suggests caution at the betting windows.

Keen observation was important to the assessment of Naseem Hamed, who became convinced last year that no featherweight in history could have lived with him. Head up, hands down in defiance of tenets that most boxing trainers hold sacrosanct, Hamed was inviting a smack on the chin. Kevin Kelley obliged. Three times before succumbing to Hamed's natural speed and power.

Following victory in the first Test last summer, the England and Wales Cricket Board chairman, Lord MacLaurin, put it about that Mike Atherton's team could well be the best performing presently. This was entrapment of the highest order and three defeats later, a boost for the optical industry.

Many innocent years ago I was advised that eyes can deceive even the best judges of horseflesh. Possessing no expertise in such matters, I bore the instruction in mind when choosing to ignore Entrepreneur's brilliant victory in the 2,000 guineas as a pointer to the Derby. My money was on Silver Patriarch, who finished second to Beny the Dip. There endeth the lesson.

A walk into dreamland for Whelan

Dave Whelan and Blackburn Rovers. The FA Cup has a happy knack of merging past and present, the little and the large. When Wigan Athletic turn out at Ewood Park on Saturday, their chairman will have both pride and painful memory swirling within him.

Whelan, one of the country's richest men as the owner of JJB Sports, is the chairman of Wigan, but does not hide his feelings for Blackburn. He has a box at Ewood Park and admits the club that Jack Walker built is the template he will use for his own ambitious plans. There are deeper ties, though, that go back to the 1950s.

He signed for Rovers at 17, and was a first-team regular when Blackburn made it to the 1960 FA Cup final. What should have been one of the great days of his life turned out to be little short of disastrous.

The match was so poor the press christened it the "Dustbin Final" and Wolves, who won 3-0, were pelted with apple cores and drink cartons as they went up to accept the trophy. Blackburn, who had been the favourites, did not need the scorn of supporters because they were tearing themselves to pieces internally, as Derek Dougan had submitted a transfer request an hour before the kick-off.

It was a sorry occasion all round, but Whelan was saddest of them all. A few minutes before half-time he was caught by a bad challenge from Norman Dooly and had his leg broken in three places. He made a comeback two years later, broke the leg again, and effectively his career was over bar a couple of seasons with Crewe.

As it happened his premature retirement proved to be his making and, at 61, the comparisons with him and Walker are inevitable. Work begins next week on Whelan's new stadium, which will ultimately be home to Athletic and the town's sporting institution, the rugby league club where he also has a financial interest. Like Uncle Jack of Ewood, he is determined to ensure the taxman will get as little as possible in death duties.

That is the future. For the moment there is the tie of his dreams. "I've been excited ever since the draw was made,"

FA CUP COUNTDOWN



BY GUY HODGSON

be said this week. "Blackburn are a great club and, after Wigan Athletic, the only one I support."

John Deehan, Wigan's manager, can testify to the Ewood admiration society. "The chairman has done nothing but rave about Blackburn Rovers," he said. "He believes they are the club we should try and emulate as much as possible. The ground is going to be built on their lines and I'm encouraged to play like them, attacking football with two wingers. I'm pleased for him that we're going back there."

It was Whelan's plan for Wigan that persuaded Deehan, a former manager of Norwich City, to take the plunge into dilapidated Springfield Park, and it is clear that the admiration has withstood two years of working together. Last spring's Third Division championship and trebled gates helped, of course, but so has the chairman's enthusiasm to continue to finance the club.

"You sometimes dismiss former players when you bear them talk," Deehan said. "You think they're dreaming a little bit. I've done my homework and be could play. He was a very bright prospect and be could have challenged for the left-back's position in the England team."

"There was an occasion when I'd been at the club four or five months when the press came down to do some filming. Six or seven players were there and they asked the chairman if he'd like to kick the ball around with them. We were doing quite a complicated routine with a player in the middle of the circle, and although he had a suit on and he was 59 he gave a tremendous display.



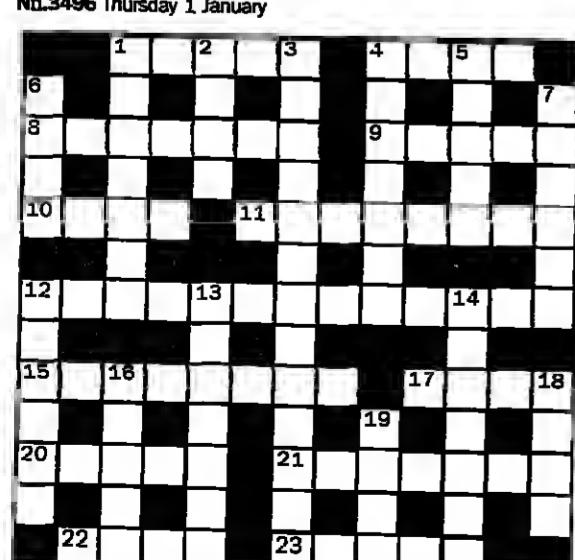
Dave Whelan, Wigan Athletic's chairman, shows off a model of the JJB Stadium (above), which forms a central part of his ambitious plans for the Second Division club. His hopes of exploiting his obvious potential as a full-back disappeared (right) when he broke his leg while playing in Blackburn's 3-0 defeat by Wolves in the 1960 FA Cup final. John Deehan (left) is the manager charged with developing the team to match the chairman's plans off it.

Main photograph: Wigan News;
Right: Photographic News Agency.



GAMES CONCISE CROSSWORD

No.3496 Thursday 1 January



ACROSS

- 1 Metaphysical poet (5)
- 4 Evangelist (4)
- 8 Parade in historic costume (7)
- 9 Rebuke (5)
- 10 Duty roster (4)
- 11 Contributor to the Exchequer (8)
- 12 Formal discussions (13)
- 15 Express dissatisfaction (8)
- 17 Eager (4)
- 20 Condescend (5)
- 21 US state (7)
- 22 Eyelid swelling (4)
- 23 Stories (5)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:
ACROSS: 1 Eggshell, 5 Lent (Excellent), 9 Exact, 10 Nullify, 11 Indulgent, 14 Household name, 16 Hospitable, 20 Cruiser, 21 Peril, 22 Bass, 23 All clear. DOWN: 1 Eyesight, 2 Grandeur, 3 Hotel, 4 Lance corporal, 6 Eat, 7 Toys, 8 Placid, 12 Jamboree, 13 Jeweller, 15 Egos, 17 Topic, 18 Scab, 19 Fuss.

DOWN

- 1 Using numbers (7)
- 2 Tidy (4)
- 3 Most unusual (13)
- 4 Top prize (7)
- 5 Hirsute (5)
- 6 Stimulus (4)
- 7 Rubble (6)
- 12 Settle (6)
- 13 Amount in bank account (7)
- 14 Plain to see (7)
- 16 Damp (5)
- 18 Expensive (4)
- 19 Mendacious person (4)

Downs to yesterday's Concise Crossword:
ACROSS: 1 Eggshell, 5 Lent (Excellent), 9 Exact, 10 Nullify, 11 Indulgent, 14 Household name, 16 Hospitable, 20 Cruiser, 21 Peril, 22 Bass, 23 All clear. DOWN: 1 Eyesight, 2 Grandeur, 3 Hotel, 4 Lance corporal, 6 Eat, 7 Toys, 8 Placid, 12 Jamboree, 13 Jeweller, 15 Egos, 17 Topic, 18 Scab, 19 Fuss.

POKER: DAVID SPANIER

Adam Hine hit the front dramatically in the recent tournament week at the Grosvenor Victoria casino in London. He won the £100 pot-limit Hold 'em event, worth £9,702 to the winner, and then showed it was no fluke by winning the £400 no-limit with a first prize of £14,448.

One feature of Adam's play, perhaps surprising in a computer analyst, was a willingness to trust his instincts, as he showed in the first final, against Dave "Devil Fish" Ulliot. "In an earlier hand," Adam explained, "I felt I was going to win it from the start. I was dealt a 10. Sure enough. I paired up. I bet the band and another player raised me. I could sense he had a strong hand. I decided to re-raise on instinct. I can't really believe what I'm saying, on a rational view. But I did it. And I outdrew his pair of kings."

The turning point against Ulliot showed Adam's subtlety in getting an opponent to

commit himself. Ulliot had 160,000 in chips against his own 68,000. The antes were 4,000 and 8,000. First to speak, Ulliot called. Adam with 6-9 off-suit did not raise. The flop came down 5-7-8, which was a dream flop for him. The question was how to get his opponent to bet.

Adam checked. Ulliot bet 8,000. Adam called, with a cautious pause – two or three seconds can seem an age in this situation. Next card was another 5. "I just knew, he had trip fives, I don't know how. I wanted to get him to bet it himself. If I checked, he would check. So I bet 15,000. And he raised me 37,000, setting me all-in. Ulliot did indeed have a five, with a low kicker. After this hit, Adam was in command. "I have to maximise your good hands. It's no good just sticking money in on aces. My bet of 15,000 was just right to get him to commit himself." Ulliot was philosophical in defeat: "He played well. No complaints."

CHOICE: DANCE

The Nutcracker, The Coliseum, (0171-632 8300) 2.30pm and 7.30pm

From the moment the curtain rises on Derek Deane's new *Nutcracker* for English National Ballet, you know there is a theatrical mind at work. Instead of the usual punch-pounding and tree-admiring, everyone is frantically partying and executing a tricksy balletic quickstep to beguile the audience. It's one of those "I'm too trendy for my tree" affairs, all black and white prettified: these vermin are good and scary. If all that were not enticement enough, there's a strong performance of *Urbaloty's* superb score, a masterpiece of orchestration.

David Biedrzycki

TODAY'S PICK

Video Nation (12.30pm BBC1) A compilation of those funny little films you might have seen while waiting for *Newsgate*. Stimulating and often more topical than Paxman himself, the two-minute vignettes feature people talking to camera on Election night, the morning after the death of the Princess of Wales and during the trial of Louise Woodward. Pure, unspun reality.

Storm Over 4 (10pm C4) An early image stands out in this look back at the controversial bits of Channel 4's history. Mary Whitehouse watching television. She whisks in her armchair like a crazy shock-haired puppet, tutting in disgust but bound by some moral imperative to watch the filth before her. This was prompted, no doubt, by shows like *The Tube*, *The Word*, and *Brookside*

- whose pioneering use of swearing to reflect social reality proved unpopular with viewers, so much so that station controller Jeremy Isaacs was forced to take strong action: "The fucks have got to go and the piss off's have got to be restricted". A red warning triangle was later introduced to alert viewers to the sexual content of some films - with the predictable result that ratings doubled.



Tom Hanks in *Forrest Gump*: 9pm BBC1

BBC1

7.00 Children's BBC: Paddington Peas (R) (1224178). 7.05 Teletubbies (S) (203246). 7.30 The Busy World of Richard Scarry (R) (S) (8475975). 7.55 Casper Classics (T) (9015492). 8.35 Mighty Max (R) (S) (9777807). 8.40 The Real Adventures of Jonny Quest (R) (4529371). 8.50 Sweet Valley High (R) (S) (6079622). 8.50 The World of Peter Rabbit and Friends (S) (765525). 10.00 Teletubbies (S) (24081).

10.30 Film: *Herbie Goes To Monte Carlo* (Vincent McEveety 1977 US). Third Disney outing in which the lovable Volkswagen is racing on the European circuit when he falls in love... with a Lancia (76545888).

12.10 Film: *Noe's La Mans Dream* (S) (3302642). 1.00 News; Weather: Regional News (T) (27852178). 1.10 Neighbours (S) (T) (71098826).

1.30 Children's BBC: Bramby Hedge (R) (S) (2802).

2.00 Film: *Mary Poppins* (Robert Stevenson 1964 US). Hugely popular Disney musical fantasy nominated for an astonishing 13 Oscars, which combines live action with animation. Julie Andrews is the highly unorthodox nanny who takes a job with a straight-and-straight banker's family in London. "Chim Chim-Cher-ee" waltzed off with the Best Song gong. Julie Andrews won Best Actress Oscar for her Tippy Legge Bourke while Dick Van Dyke sacked his accent coach - that's if he ever had one in the first place (S) (T) (2961449).

4.15 Cartoons (3535401). 4.35 Blue Peter Review of the Year (S) (T) (7767130). 5.05 From Grange Hill to Albert Square... and Beyond (S) (T) (7962975). 5.45 News; Weather (T) (603772).

5.55 Regional News; Weather (T) (782517).

6.00 The World's Strongest Man - The Final. Traditional New Year's Day fare in Philippa Forrester and Paul Dickenson introduce some seasonal grunting from Nevada. A bloke called Iron Bear Collins leads the American challenge while the event itself is usually won by some hulking Nordic brute with a toque. If you like seeing big gezzers dragging trucks around then it's your lucky night (S) (T) (60625).

7.00 Mysteries with *Carol Vorderman*. The (made up) tale of a Second World War soldier who was guided to safety by a man who could not possibly have been there (S) (T) (6223).

7.30 EastEnders. Cindy pleads with Ian - but she does (S) (T) (3).

8.00 Born To Be Wild with *Martin Clunes*. Martin Clunes assists a team from the Born Free Foundation in the release of a 28-year-old elephant, born free in Tanzania but rescued and brought up in a sanctuary following the death of her mother. Quite what form his assistance will take isn't clear (S) (T) (6739).

9.00 Film: *Forrest Gump* (Robert Zemeckis 1994 US). See Today's Films, above (S) (T) (8745036).

11.15 News; Regional News; Weather (T) (489393). 11.30 Faces of Islam (S) (488449).

11.55 Fleetwood Mac - The Dance (S) (T) (430307).

12.55 Film: *Carry On Abroad* (Gerald Thomas 1972 UK). The regulars go on a package holiday to the Spanish resort of Elsels where they find the hotel half-built and laughs in short supply (7371463).

2.25-6.40 *Join BBC News 24* (75848918).

REGIONS: Scotland 11.15 News; Regional News

11.30-11.35 Resolutions

REGIONS: Wales 12.55 Film: *Carry On Abroad*

2.20-6.40 *Join BBC News 24*

BBC2

7.00 Day of the Pharaohs: *The Face of Tutankhamun* (R) (S) (6729401). 7.50 Wonderful Things (R) (S) (5757826). 8.40 Everywhere the Glim of Gold (R) (S) (4267081). 9.30 The Pharaoh Awakes (R) (S) (5590901). 10.20 Heads in the Sand (R) (S) (2929326).

11.30 Happy New Year (S) (645333). 11.45 New Year's Day Concert from Vienna (S) (4051028).

12.30 Video Nation - Best of 97. See Today's Pick, above (S) (5152772).

1.20 The Royal Institution Christmas Lectures - The Magical Maze. The last of the fascinating kiddie-centric science lectures looks at the mathematics of symmetry in nature - find out why tigers have stripes and leopards spots etc (S) (T) (3234772).

2.20 Day of the Pharaohs: *Timewatch* (S) (2534081).

3.10 Film: *Cleopatra* (Joseph L. Mankiewicz 1963 US). Elizabeth Taylor plays the Queen of the Nile with Rex Harrison's Julius Caesar and Richard Burton's Mark Anthony as the two loves of her life. A disappointing and overblown rendition with Taylor and Burton having a lot more fun camera than on, this being the locale for their romance. Harrison turns in a terrific performance, but this lumbering beast of a film never really gets off the ground (T) (2435081).

5.05 *Cleopatra Short* (S) (2561178).

5.10 Film: *Cleopatra* Concluding half of the epic patchy drama (T) (99941265).

7.20 *Cleopatra Short*. Short film exploring the continuing fascination with the pyramids of ancient Egypt (S) (536536).

7.30 Secrets of Lost Empires. Ari Mark talks us through an attempt to recreate the Great Pyramid of Giza, one of the greatest ever feats of engineering and craftsmanship, using only the tools and materials available at the time. Archaeologist Mark Lehner and stonemason Roger Hopkins struggle to build a replica of the First Wonder of the World, manipulating two-tonne stone blocks without wheels or pulleys (R) (S) (T) (470371).

8.20 *Cleopatra Short*. Another short film, this one about the asp, presenting the poisonous snake in a "good light" - whatever that means (S) (465178).

8.30 *The Cleopatra Files*. Drama documentary showing an intimate view of Cleopatra, once the cinema's most expensive film and the love affair played out on- and off-screen. Based on the correspondence between 20th Century Fox publicists Jack Brodsky and Nathan Weiss. Vintage gossip, basically (S) (T) (4420).

9.00 *Search for the Lost Tomb - KV6*. Documentary about the splendidly-named archaeologist Kent Weeks and his search for one of Egypt's lost tombs (S) (T) (76245).

9.50 *The Likely Lads*. Bob and Thérèse are determined to enjoy the Christmas festivities to the full (R) (262197).

10.35 *Film: Small Faces*. (Gilles Deleuze 1995 UK) See Today's Films, above (S) (T) (7988988).

12.30 Film: *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg* (Jacques Demy 1964 Fr/W Ger). A lavish, romantic musical drama, sung throughout to a Michel Legrand score. Catherine Deneuve shines as a 16-year-old girl forced into a loveless marriage because she is pregnant by her absent beau, who is doing national service. Neither mawkish nor sentimental, though it could easily have been both (575393). To 2.10am

ITV

6.00 GMTV (330555)

9.25 Film: *The Brave Little Toaster* (Jerry Rees 1987 US). Enjoyable animated yarn about a group of intrepid humanised household appliances, led by the toaster (never trust a toaster), who leave their domestic ordinary and set off on a musical adventure. What's known in the trade as a family movie with some memorable songs by Van Dyke Parks (S) (T) (2069284).

10.50 Film: *Disney's Escape to Witch Mountain* (Peter Rader 1994 US). Unremarkable made-for-tv remake of John Hough's 1974 lansky adventure in which two orphaned children with psychic powers come to the unwelcome attention of an unscrupulous local entrepreneur (Robert Vaughn). When things get sticky, the nippies escape and go in search of the mysterious mountain where they were discovered as babies (T) (33672212).

12.30 ITN News; Weather (T) (62746710).

12.40 *The Baldy Man*. Silly comedy starring Gregor Fisher and written by Jack Docherty, amongst others (S) (9633062).

1.20 Film: *Hollywood's Greatest Stunts* (1859352).

2.15 Film: *The China Syndrome* (James Bridges 1978 US). Jane Fonda and Michael Douglas star in an edge slice of late Sevens' paranoia about an attempted cover-up at a nuclear power plant. An ambitious TV reporter (Fonda) and a cameraman (Douglas) are present at the reactor when a meltdown is averted by a quick-witted engineer (Jack Lemmon). A little self-important in places, but the tension feels real enough and the Oscar-nominated stars are both good value (T) (29622468).

3.30 ITN News; Weather (T) (7063888).

4.40 Film: *A League of Their Own* (Penny Marshall 1992 US). Geena Davis, Madonna and Lori Petty are among the baseball babes coached by a drunken Tom Hanks in a Penny Marshall comedy about America's first all-female baseball league in WW2. Davis is her usual excellent self, but the picture as a whole lacks direction and has that yukky sentimental old America feel (S) (T) (86324913).

7.00 Emmerdale. Marlon is still homeless after being chucked out by the Dingles. Paddy tries to do Father Outhwaite a good deed only to receive the "Get off my land" treatment. Steve finds out the truth about Kim and the body in the quarry. And I thought it was a soap opera about farms... (S) (T) (3791).

7.30 *Mr. Bean Goes to Town* (R) (S) (S1).

8.00 *Blues and Twos*. Action with Kent's air ambulance service (S) (T) (9739).

8.30 *The Bill*. A cut from a needle during a struggle with an addict leaves Boulton with some HIV (S) (T) (2321).

9.00 *Taggart* (S) (T) (3471).

10.00 *An Evening with Spike Milligan*. Sir Harry Secombe, Peter O'Toole and Roy Hudd defer charmingly to the ex-Goons (R) (S) (T) (4130).

11.00 ITN News; Weather (T) (290957).

11.10 Film: *Haunted Honeymoon* (Glen Weller 1986 US). Misguided comedy spool shot in a young Frankenstein style but without Mel Brooks's wit (T) (791536).

12.45 *Frankie Howerd at His Tittermost*.

Welcome repeat of the great man's 1991 show at the Birmingham Hippodrome (R) (463734).

2.10 *Dance 97* (9937579).

3.10 Film: *Dancer Academy* (Ted Mather 1987 US/It) Inferno Film np-off (S) (67-89579).

5.30 *The Making of A Life Less Ordinary* (4529397).

5.55 ITN Morning News (2571376) To 8am

CHANNEL 4

6.00 *Dumb and Dumber* (R) (S) (7791352).

6.15 *Orville* (R) (867246). 6.40 *Madelaine* (R) (S) (565284). 7.05 *The Babysitters' Club* (R) (4612913). 7.35 *Two Stupid Dogs* (R) (842284). 8.00 *The Big Breakfast* (14604).

10.00 *Zig and Zag's Big Morning*: Happy Days (R) (867407). 10.35 *Zig and Zag's Big Morning*: Saved by the Bell: Wedding in Las Vegas (R) (S) (T) (836833). 11.05 *Zig and Zag's Big Morning*: Moesha (R) (S) (5539807). 11.30 *The Monkees* (574178).

12.05 *Zig and Zag's Big Morning*: Coping with... (T) (189178). 12.35 *Zig and Zag's Big Morning*: Erie, Indiana (R) (T) (7006081).

1.00 *A Dog's Life* (R) (S) (2789468).

1.15 *Channel 4 Racing* from *Cheltenham* (S) (9782604).

1.30 *The Lord's Prayer*. Comedy short starring Roger Lloyd-Pack (Trigger from *Only Fools and Horses*) as a cricket-mad man making a pilgrimage to Lord's cricket ground (6350420).

4.00 *Bewitched* (T).

4.30 *Countdown*. Words and numbers in front of a slumbering studio audience. Hosted by Dicky W and Vord at the board (S) (T) (94).

5.00 Film: *The Railway Children* (Joni Jeffries 1972 UK). E Nesbit's book is gloriously realised by director Lionel Jeffries. The young Jenny Agutter is the eldest of three children whose lives change dramatically after their respectable Daddy is jailed on suspicion of treason and they move to a small Yorkshire cottage, near a railway line, among common folk. A wonderfully evocative tale of childhood with both Agutter and a curmudgeonly Bernard Cribbins as the station master outstanding (T) (50333).

7.00 *Concert of Hope*. This syrupy cabaret-fest concert was recorded in aid of the Diana, Princess of Wales, Memorial Fund. Recorded at Battersea Power Station, London on 7 December 1997 and featuring Gary Barlow and Robbie Williams, in their first public appearance together since Take That split. As if that wasn't bad enough Peter Andre and Boyzone are there too (T) (3407).

8.00 *Desmond*. Michael is promoted to bank manager, and Matthew searches for an act to top the bill at his charity concert (R) (T) (3951).

8.30 Film: *Equinox*. A new departure from the people at Equinox - a fictional future-set documentary-style drama that asks what the media might be like in 15 years time. John Milne's drama investigates the death of fictitious media mogul Liam Keller (Danny Webb), a Bill Gates-like figure of the new millennium and speculates how the media could develop (T) (2913).

10.00 *Storm over 4*. See Today's Pick, above (T) (2772).

11.00 *Last Tango in Paris* (Bernardo Bertolucci 1972 It/Fr). A rejuvenated Marlon Brando takes centre stage as a middle-aged American expat in Paris, who finds anonymous sex with Maria Schneider is the best way to get over his wife's suicide (T) (3378888).

12.45 *Frankie Howerd at His Tittermost*.

Welcome repeat of the great man's 1991 show at the Birmingham Hippodrome (R) (463734).

1.20 *Emmerdale* (S) (2621932). 1.20 *Movie Magic* (T) (8552332). 3.10 *Dance* (2621932). 5.35 *Sound Bytes* (66282602). 5.30 *Telespin* (4525937).

5.45 *S4C* As *Cartoon* except

Gough's injury blow opens tour door for Silverwood

England's chances of cricketing success in the West Indies suffered a blow yesterday when their fast bowler Darren Gough withdrew through injury, to be replaced by Chris Silverwood. Derek Pringle, Cricket Correspondent, reports.

The hamstring injury that forced Darren Gough to miss the final two Ashes Tests of the summer has returned to force the fast bowler out of England's

tour of the West Indies, due to leave on Saturday. His place will now go to his Yorkshire teammate Chris Silverwood, currently in Kenya with the England A team.

"I've tried everything possible to get fit, so this setback is extremely frustrating and upsetting," Gough said. "But I'm extremely optimistic I will soon regain full fitness."

The loss of Gough will be a significant blow to England's chances of heating the West Indies on their home soil, a feat last achieved by Colin Cowdrey's side in 1968. His effervescent personality, a boon on

long tours away from home, will be almost as badly missed as his ability to get the ball to reverse swing, an important factor on bare dry pitches.

According to the England physiotherapist Wayne Morton, Gough's problems from last summer - sore hamstring tendons behind the left knee - had never cleared up and, despite intensive treatment, he was never entirely free of pain when trying to bowl flat out. Although he missed Sharjah attending the birth of his second son, it clearly bought him some extra time, too.

David Graveney, England's

chairman of selectors, held out the possibility of Gough linking up with Atherton's squad later on. "This is a blow to both the England team and to Darren himself, as I know he was extremely keen to return to the international arena after missing the latter part of last summer through injury," Graveney said.

"However, we remain confident we can overcome his loss and sustain the momentum we established in Sharjah. Should Darren return to full fitness in time, then the possibility of him joining the squad should not be ruled out."

Morton thought that Gough

would be ready for the tour until recently. "Following intense sessions at Old Trafford, and more recently at Headingley, I was hopeful that initial positive signs of improvement would allow Darren the iceway to start the tour and test his leg outdoors on grass," he said. "But this proved futile when the problem worsened under the load of increased pace and amount of overs."

"It is an immensely frustrating time for Darren, Yorkshire and England, but despite considerable efforts on his part to meet the deadline, which we have tried to make as late as possible,

it now seems his body is determined not to mend in time.

"Since the problem arose, Darren has undergone intense treatment, plus a programme of muscle re-education to correct muscle imbalance. He even underwent a knee investigation arthroscopy to rule out an internal structural problem."

Silverwood had mixed emotions when he heard that his immediate 1998 plans had changed so drastically.

"I'm disappointed for Darren and it's never nice to see one of your mates miss out through injury, but I'm delighted I've been called up," he said. "I'm

sure it will take a while for this to really sink in, but I hope I can step in and do a good job."

Silverwood's promotion follows a reasonable summer, where he took 44 wickets at 29 for his county. Having had a sketchy tour of Zimbabwe and New Zealand last winter, his progress was slow until the end

of the season, when he was asked to spearhead the Yorkshire attack. In a crucial game with Kent he was on course for all 10 second-inning wickets, until rain and the broad bat of Mark Ealham ruined the fun.

Having put on a yard of pace since last winter, Silverwood

may well have claims towards taking the new ball, though much will depend on the early form of team-mates like Ashley Cowan and Angus Fraser. He is no Gough but, whatever happens, Silverwood must take his chance when it comes. If he can fill Gough's boots as handsomely as Matthew Fleming did in Sharjah, England should have no cause for regret.

The Lancashire seamer Peter Martin has been named as the stand-by fast bowler for both tours. Silverwood will be replaced in the A team by Warwickshire's all-rounder Dougie Brown.

Split game hinders return to the good old days

Life is hard for the gladiators of the oche as darts tries to pull itself together. Greg Wood reports from the World Championship at Purfleet on a sport that fell from favour.

It is less than 15 years since a serious talent for darts was something worth having. Fame, fortune, perhaps even a song for services to your sport - such were the rewards of a pursuit which, like snooker, could have been designed for the television age. Eric Bristow was one of the most famous sportsmen in Britain, and kids in bedrooms and garages everywhere practised throwing their arrows with a cocked right pinkie, just like Eric.

But at the very moment when it seemed ready to conquer the world, something strange and unfortunate happened to darts. Without any warning, the boozey, gladiatorial atmosphere which had captured audiences in their millions suddenly lost its appeal. Almost at once, the nation switched off. Sponsors and TV coverage melted away. No one has ever quite worked out why.



Straight through: Keith Deller lost 3-2 to Mick Manning at the World Championship at Purfleet's Circus Tavern yesterday, but advanced to the quarter-finals on legs average

Photograph: David Ashdown

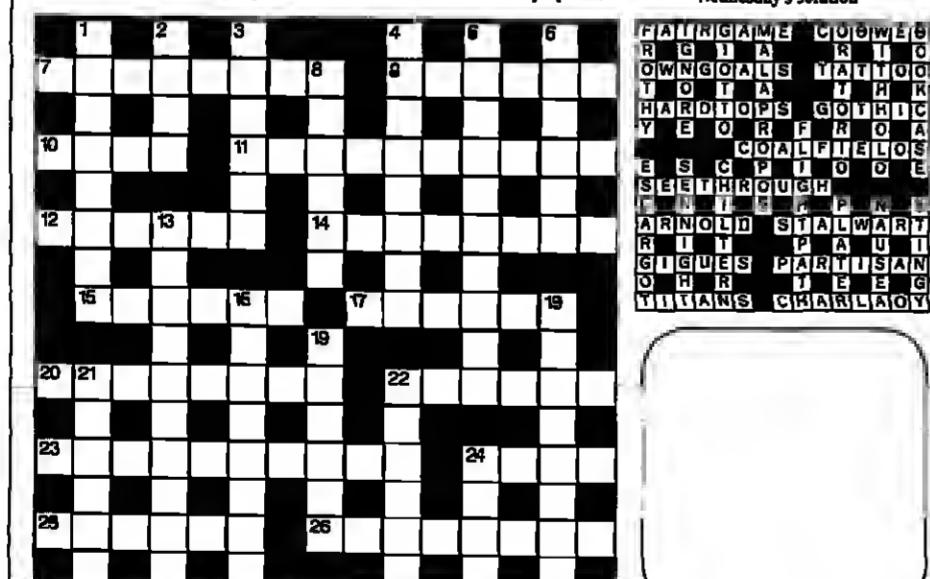
TOMORROW: THE INDEPENDENT SPORTS CALENDAR FOR 1998

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3496. Thursday 1 January 1998

By Spurias

Wednesday's solution



- ACROSS
7 Stage feature has cross-piece reversed (4,4)
9 Last of cannon involved in a loud, shattering discharge (6)
10 Analyse compound of sulphur and tin (4)
11 Ladies' undergarments? Lots of them - it's business (5,5)
12 Miscellaneous collection left by patriarch (Old Testament) (3-3)
14 Resent exclusive group's ingrained attitudes (8)
15 Warship expected to be overcome (6)
17 Pupil removed from comprehensive classes (6)
20 Quick way to make Brie? (5,3)
- DOWN
1 Valuable having a summary which includes French as an alternative (8)
2 Put favourite slant on serious offence President's involved in (4)
3 Dessert in regular spherical shape (6)
4 Getting drunk in inn, cause trouble (8)

- 22 Naughty child gets drink on stick (6)
23 Cruise and tour organised for people of fashion (10)
24 What soldiers must do is charge (4)
25 Customer over in saloon or taproom? (6)
26 Jumper with special opening in front (8)
5 Honest fellow with dirty job winning all he prizes? (5,5)
6 Vessel impounded by police for sale? (6)
8 About to introduce poor relief in the provinces (6)
13 Scientific establishment originally located at Brompton, above church (10)
16 Rolling cigar, nun appears apathetic (8)
18 See aunt boil grubby washing (8)
19 Band of different colour runs through piece of meat (6)
21 Catch fitted to a hot water pipe (6)
22 Bats in belfry as nine is struck (6)
24 Deliver timber (4)

FOOTBALL

Pleat moves quickly to try to lure Speed

David Pleat is likely to make his mark quickly at White Hart Lane with an offer for Everton's unsettled captain, Gary Speed. Sheffield Wednesday will have to think again, though, after their latest offer was turned down.

Pleat, Tottenham's new Director of Football, who will be in charge of buying players, approached Everton yesterday, and for his part, the Goodison manager Howard Kendall was keen to listen to what Pleat might have to say about possible player exchanges. Yesterday, Kendall turned down Wednesday's bid, not long after rehuffing Newcastle United.

It is believed the latest offer

from Atkinson was £6m plus Jim Magilton, while Newcastle's was £5m plus Darren Peacock.

Tottenham's attempt to overturn the Department for Education and Employment's refusal to give fitness director Fritz Schmid a work permit, was aided yesterday when Fifa, world football's ruling body, lent its support.

"He would have a unique claim to the job, in our view," a Fifa spokesman said. "His fitness qualities are exactly what should be hired because many believe this is one of the weak spots in the Premier League."

The DOE, which will hear an appeal by Spurs, said that Fifa had sent a letter of

recommendation with the original application - which means little has changed.

Gross has more immediate problems as he deals with the fall-out from recent comments by Les Ferdinand and Darren Anderton about his leadership.

Ferdinand reportedly accused Gross of making him train while injured, while Anderton claimed Gross made him play in the reserves while not fully-fit. "None of these players have complained to me personally and I will seek to find out if their remarks have been misrepresented," Gross said.

- Alan Nixon

More football, page 26

SWIMMING

Competitors to face sharks without a gun

Water police have refused a request to put a diver with a spear gun in the sea in case of a shark attack during long-distance events at next month's world championships in Perth, Australia.

The organising committee requested special protective measures for swimmers competing in 5km and 25km ocean races after a shark attack and several sightings of large sharks off Perth beaches in recent months.

"It's too chancy," said the officer in charge of water police, Acting Senior Sergeant

Gary Tattersall. "A diver with a spear gun's got one chance. He can either shoot and miss, then he's unarmed in the water with a shark."

"He can hit it in the wrong spot and send it into more of a frenzy or there's a third option that he hits it in the right spot and it's dead."

Tattersall said police

aboard boats would be prepared to use firearms if a shark attacked and divers

would be prepared to rescue anyone left injured.

The championship's executive director, Alan Melchett,

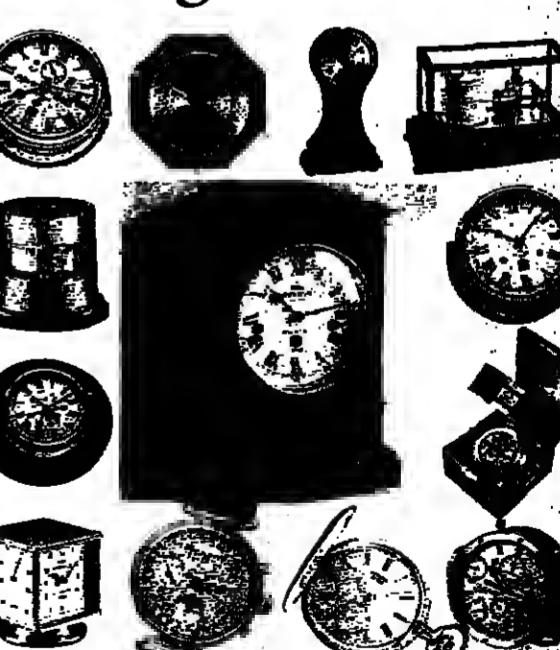
said he expected police divers would be equipped with "some form of anti-shark device" when the ocean events were held off Hillarys, in northern Perth, on 7 and 8 January.

Melchett added that a spotter plane as well as fisheries and police boats were designed to minimise concerns of attack.

"Swimmers are aware of it but they're a pretty hardy breed and they're used to swimming in waters with a lot of different types of hazards, but this is regarded as a pretty safe environment at this time of the year."

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